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WARREN ISHAM, EDITOR.

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## A PEEP AT ANTIQUITY.

Although we suppose the expression referred to in the article below, in reference to the impression the World's Fair would be likely to make upon Solomon, could he come forth out of his grave to behold it, was designed rather as a sort of figure of speech which might serve to deepen the impression of the wonderful novelties of the occasion referred to, yet we are glad that our friend has taken occasion from it to serve up to the readers of the Farmer so rich an intellectual repast, drawn from the treasures of ancient lore:

## ANCIENT IMPROVEMENTS, COMPARED WITH THOSE OF MODERN TIMES.

*For the Michigan Farmer.*  
CERESCO, Jan. 8th, 1851.

Mr. Editor:

On reading the article, in the Farmer for January, in reference to the World's Fair, I found the following paragraph:

"I venture to say, if Solomon, who is supposed to have embodied a mine of wisdom, should come up out of his sepulchre, where he has been sleeping these 2850 years at least, and take even a birds-eye view of the many wonderful things which Hyde Park will bear upon her bosom in May next, he would be struck dumb with astonishment; and if he ever after recovered his speech, the first sentence he would utter would be, that he was altogether mistaken when he said there was nothing new under the sun!"

Here I paused, laid down the Farmer, took up the good old Book, and began anew to study the discourse of the preacher-king, to whom reference is made. Thought I to myself, as I passed along, is it possible that this man—Solomon—can have been so mistaken? A man who spake three thousand proverbs, composed one thousand and five songs—who spake of the trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that springeth out of the wall—who spake of beasts, of fowls, of creeping things, and of fishes—who terraced mountains, made gardens, planted vineyards and olive yards, constructed highways, aqueducts, and pools of water—built ships and

fitted out navies, solved the problems of Hiram, who governed an empire, and constructed palaces, and a temple which, for magnificence, costliness, strength and beauty, has never as yet been equalled—thought I to myself, this, then, is the man who is to be petrified with astonishment, should he come up from his long sleep of near three thousand years, on occasion of the world's Fair at Hyde Park, in London, the coming May!

Mr. Editor, this boasted nineteenth century is a wonderful age. We compare ourselves with ourselves, and are not wise. We compare ourselves with the men sunk in the lowest depths of ignorance and barbarism of the dark ages, and in this we are still more unwise. I have long been satisfied that this boasting might as well be dispensed with.

Let us look back a little, and do justice to the ancients—to the mighty dead of by-gone ages, as well as to ourselves. I have no idea that Solomon, could he be at Hyde Park, would have any occasion to make the confession supposed. I think I shall be able to make this a clear case.

Solomon is evidently misapprehended, just as in another point where he is often quoted. Not long since, I heard a man remark that he did not think much of his discretion—"If the tool be dull you must put to the more strength." He thought it would have discovered more wisdom to have directed it to be first sharpened. Though thousands have thus quoted his words, yet Solomon gives no such direction. His words are, "If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength; but wisdom is profitable to direct." What, then, does Solomon mean, in the case before us? The connection, and the whole discourse, clearly determine his meaning. To illustrate his position, that real, substantial good, is not to be found in mere worldly possessions, he begins by referring to the regular course of nature: "One generation passeth away, and another cometh; the sun ariseth and goeth down; the wind goeth toward the south and returneth again, according to his circuits; all the rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full, and return again in showers to water the earth; all things are full of labor; that which hath been shall be, and there is no new thing under the sun." So far, all is clear; and in the respects indicated, there is nothing new.

It may be said that Solomon goes still further, when he affirms that there is nothing done of which it may be said, "See, this is new; for it hath been already, of old time." As a general proposition, this is also true. But, like all general propositions, it has its limitations and exceptions. But Solomon, who appears to have perfectly understood himself, provides for these limitations and exceptions. For he says expressly, that men have sought out many new inventions, which implies that they may seek out many others still; and he thrice affirms that no one can tell what shall be after him, which also implies that things may be done *after*, which were not done *in* his day or before.

But after all, it is very certain that the limitations and exceptions are much less numerous than many seem to imagine. A vast number of discoveries claimed to be new, have been of old. A great number of monuments, still remaining, attest the high civilization and attainments in arts and sciences, of many of the ancient nations.

Could Solomon come up from his ancient capital, I have no doubt his *NOTES BY THE WAY* would be exceedingly interesting, shrewd, pointed, and discriminating. I can imagine what some of them would be, and shall anticipate, with a view of suggesting some comparisons between ancient and modern times. It is easy to suppose that his *NOTES* might contain a reference to a few centuries before, as well as after his day.

How stands the matter as it regards population? A few facts and incidents will show the population of his own kingdom, as well as that of the neighboring nations, to have been immense. The two states that adhered to the house of David, called out 400,000 men, while the ten revolting states brought into the field an army of 800,000. The armies of those days far exceeded any of modern times. After Cyrus had spent several years in the siege of Babylon, and had taken the city, he displayed and reviewed within its walls an army of over 800,000 chosen men, 120,000 of whom were cavalry, and two thousand chariots. The cities, also, of those times, were numerous, large, and populous. Ninevah, sixty miles in circumference; Babylon, a square of twelve miles on its several sides; No, or Thebes, a city of great extent; Tyre, the mart of nations; not to mention the hundreds of cities of Edom, Moab, Ammon, Syria, and other nations, the ruins of which remain to this day, to attest their greatness.

As respects fertility, productiveness, and cultivation of the earth, I am sure there is no pre-eminence. Egypt was highly cultivated, sustained a dense population, and exported vast quantities of grain. Palestine was a land flowing with milk and honey, producing corn, wine, and oil—every valley a garden, and every mountain terraced to its top, and planted with all-manner of fruit, and the finest of the wheat was theirs. Chaldea, and the region round about, in culture and productiveness, were never excelled, yield-

ing from one to two hundred fold. Herodotus, the father of history, Pliny, the naturalist, and Strabo, the eminent geographer, represent the crops as often reaching three hundred fold, and the grain of enormous size.

In architecture, there is nothing now on the face of the living earth that can vie with even the remains of antiquity. The modern nations have copied, but never can come up to the ancient models. What would Solomon find, *en route* from his ancient capital, to compare with the architecture of his own day? To say nothing of the pyramids, and other stupendous structures of Egypt, the immense standing and prostrate columns of ruined cities, attest the grandeur of their buildings. The French, on their invasion of Egypt, undertook to remove one of Cleopatra's needles, and convey it to France. It was an obelisk, seven feet in diameter at the base, and sixty feet in length, brought down from the cataract of the Nile and set on its pedestal, by men of old.—They labored for six weeks, moved it half its length, and abandoned the enterprise as a hopeless task!

On the banks of the Nile, in upper Egypt, are immense ruins, of miles in extent, magnificent portals, obelisks beautifully decorated, forests of columns, armies of statues. One temple over a mile in circumference—twelve principal entrances—the body a hall of prodigious size—the roof supported by one hundred and thirty-four columns. The temple of Luxor surpasses every thing else in beauty and splendor. In front it has two obelisks of rose-colored marble, one hundred feet in height. The city was built and perished before the age of reliable history.

Within a few years, Petra, the ancient Bozrah, has been brought to light—a city surrounded by high palisades of rocks, from four to seven hundred feet elevation, cut into temples, palaces, dwellings and tombs, of great magnificence and beauty, with colonnades and pedestals, ranges of corridors, grottoes, niches, altars, pyramids, columns, obelisks, towers, richly decorated with every order of architecture, with pilastres, bands of frieze and entablatures—wings, recesses, figures of animals.

A word as to Babylon.—No language can convey an adequate idea of the immenseness and splendor of its buildings. The palace, one hundred and fifty feet high, and covering ten acres; the temple of Belus, six hundred feet elevation, consisting of eight towers, one above the other, surmounted with an immense statue of Baal. In its ruins it is two hundred and thirty feet and over, nearly as high as St. Peter's or St. Paul's, the latter of which is two hundred and seventy feet.

The following dimensions of an immense building on the east bank of the Tigris, are given by Keppel. "Front three hundred feet, breadth one hundred and fifty-six feet, over one hundred feet high, with four rows of arched recesses, with a central arch in span eighty-six feet, supported

by a wall sixteen feet thick"—a building much larger than Westminster Abbey.

Then look at Solomon's own temple, twelve by six rods, four hundred feet elevation on three sides, while on the east, the foundation being built up from the valley below, it presents a front nine hundred and sixty feet high; a building, the very conception of which, as Josephus justly remarks, was sufficient to have turned the brain of any man but Solomon. And yet, this is the man that is to be dumb-founded at the sight of his eyes, could he visit Hyde Park the ensuing season!

I might speak of commerce and manufactures. In the days of Solomon, Tyre was the mart of nations. It was, in the language of Volney, "the theatre of an immense commerce and navigation, the nursery of arts and science, and the city of perhaps the most industrious and active people ever known. Carthage, the rival of Rome, was the colony of Tyre. Her merchants were princes; her ships covered every known sea; her wares, her manufactured goods, were a multitude; men of all nations were at her fairs: here centred the richest products of the earth, and the finest productions of art. Ethiopians, Lydians, Egyptians, Arabians, Persians, men of the northern nations and of Europe, met here to exchange their commodities. Their ships would sustain three years voyages, and who knows but that they visited this continent, and built Palanque and other cities long since buried in ruins? Some of their barges were beautiful and splendid, and would not suffer beside the yacht of Queen Victoria. I have no doubt the exhibition at London will be a grand affair—and so were those of olden time.

Of internal improvements, one word: Thro' Edom, Moab, Ammon and Palestine, there were paved highways. A portion of the streets of Jerusalem, in the days of Solomon, were paved with marble. In Chaldea there were numberless canals and reservoirs, and the fields were watered by hydraulic machines. In Egypt there were eighty canals and three artificial lakes; some of the canals were sixty, ninety, and a hundred and twenty miles long. The artificial lake Moeris is two hundred and twenty miles in circumference—the Boston and Croton water works are mere pigmies by its side.

As to matters of taste, and works of art, statuary, sculpture, painting, music, poetry and eloquence, the ancients were certainly not deficient. In many departments of science, to equal them is the highest praise. The numerous specimens of skill recently dug out of the grave of Ninevah, have electrified the nations. Paintings, statues, bronze, sculpture in bas relief—all of beautiful workmanship. The northern front of the temple of Luxor has fifteen hundred human figures, finely wrought, five hundred on foot and one thousand in chariots. The ornaments of the temple at Jerusalem were exceedingly beautiful. Where

shall we seek a richer treasure of plaintive poetry and impassioned eloquence, than Edom has given the world in the book of Job? Who ever excelled the sweet singer of Israel, or the rapt strains of Isaiah, or the rhapsodies of Homer?—What speech ever excelled, in pathos and simple eloquence, the soul-stirring address of Judah to the lord of Egypt, in behalf of his father and brother?—and who has ever yet thrown into the shade the deep-toned, massive eloquence of Demosthenes?

Besides, I apprehend that Solomon would find no purer code of morals than the decalogue, or even civil code superior to that of his own nation—one which so carefully provides for the man and his family—the legislation of modern times having reference chiefly to the interests of the money changers. One thing would amaze him—the number of landless persons; there could be none in his country—and the vast amount of squalid poverty, misery and crime, in the very neighborhood of the fair, and that six thousand are yearly imprisoned in that city, for debts under ten pounds.

On the whole, I have no doubt in some things we are ahead of the ancients, and in others behind them. I leave for others to strike the balance. But this I will say, wholesale boasting illly becomes us. We have derived from the ancients nearly, if not all our elements of knowledge; and whether Solomon would not be surprised at the little progress made since his day, rather than otherwise, I leave your readers to judge.

JOHN D. PIERCE.

## THE WAY THINGS ARE COMING ABOUT AT LAST.

*For the Michigan Farmer.*

WHITE OAK, Ingham Co., Feb., '51.

Mr. Isham:

I did not intend to take your paper, but you sent it to me—how you got my name I know not. At the time of your sending it, I was trying to get a club for the ———, not thinking that an agricultural paper printed in Michigan could be worth taking.

But it kept coming, and every number was read with great interest. I am now very thankful you sent it. I am getting up a club for it, instead of the ———; I have now 12 subscribers, and think that by the first of April I shall get the 15. I think if we can get it introduced; our farmers will not very soon consent to be without it.

If I was capable, I should like to contribute my mite to your valuable paper.\*

Yours, &c.

A. HAYNER,  
P. M., White Oak.

\* You are capable—suppose you make the experiment.—Ed.



For the Michigan Farmer.

## MEDITERRANEAN WHEAT.

UNADILLA, Liv. county, Jan. 22.

Mr. Isham:

After many resolves and re-resolves, I have at length got my resolution up to the pitch of communicating a few thoughts for the pages of your interesting paper; and the subject which I have chosen for my *debut*, is a vindication of the Mediterranean wheat.

It is pretty well known, at least among the farmers in this neighborhood, that there has a prejudice been got up against this kind of wheat amongst millers, which has been a source of great loss and inconvenience to many farmers, and myself among the rest. It could not be sold without a shave of 5 or 6 cents on the bushel. I paid some debts with it at 56 cts. per bushel, and at last the feeling got so high against it, that one might as well try to pay a debt with old "wild cat" bills, as with Mediterranean wheat.

I had about 100 bushels of this wheat on hand, the price of which I wished to use, so I took 75 bushels to the Osceola mills, in Unadilla, in order to get it floured. It produced exactly 16 barrels superfine flour, which was 4 bushels and 41 lbs. to the barrel. I had 2½ barrels of middlings, good enough to make bread of, if we had no other way of using it, and the bran and shorts were of a very superior quality.

I had asked several millers what was the trouble with that kind of wheat?—they said it made dark flour, and a very little of it. I therefore had some dread of offering my flour for sale; however, I sold it to a very respectable baker, in Detroit, without letting him know what kind of wheat it was made from, and requested him to drop me a line and let me know how he liked it—resolved in my own mind, if it did not please him, that I would make it right about the price. In a week or two after, I received a line from him, of which the following is an extract:

"The flour I like very much—how can I get some more of it? Will you send it, or will the miller? *I think it is the best I ever had.* I can use 20 barrels per week."

I was aware that it was profitable wheat to use in the family, giving a large yield, and I think our loaf is as white as any body's. My "gude wife" thinks that 8 bushels of it goes as far as 10 of flint wheat, and another lady in our neighborhood told me that it took as much liquid (milk or water) to wet up 2 loaves of it, as it does to make 3 of flint.

It is a profitable kind of wheat for farmers to raise, if they could get the value of it in market. It will do better when sowed late than any other wheat I know of; it has a large, plump, berry, and weighs about 2 lbs. to the bushel more than flint. I put in 8 acres fall before last, on corn and buckwheat land, as late as 12th of November. It was a favorable fall, to be sure; it came up good and looked good early in the spring, but

the severe drouth checked it, and it began to head out when not more than 10 or 12 inches high, yet it got ripe, so that I had to cut it before my flint, which was sown in the middle of September, and yielded 12 bushels to the acre.

Now what is the reason that wheat which is so profitable to the farmer, being exempt from the ravages of the insect, among other properties, and making the best flour that the most extensive baker in Detroit ever used, is proscribed by the millers? I answer, simply because it is a little harder to grind, and if it is ground along with other wheat it will make dark flour, because the other is ground all to pieces before this is ground enough. I would advise all those who have any of it on hand, to get it floured on their own hook, provide their own barrels, and take their own feed, and pay the miller for grinding it.

Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM CRAIG.

CLOVERING, PLASTERING, LAPPING  
GREENSWARD FURROWS, &c. &c.

For the Michigan Farmer.

BERRIEN SPRINGS, Jan. 30, '51.

Friend Isham:

The object of this communication is not to inform you that I have a farm, but to say that nine years ago I came in possession of a piece of land adjoining this village, eighty acres of which was a piece of sorrel of the large kind. My neighbors said with me that they had never seen so large a crop of sorrel in all their lives. I was indeed discouraged, for the field, when the wind blew, looked more like a lake of blood than anything else I can compare it to.

Believing that clover would at least cripple, if not destroy the sorrel, I went to work to try the experiment. So about the middle of June I turned under twenty acres of the field, covering not less than one and a half tons of sorrel, when dry, per acre—many of my neighbors thought two tons, and not less than ten to fifteen bushels of sorrel seed to the acre; harrowed it twice; cross-plowed about 20th to 25th July, and harrowed twice. Stirred it again about the last of August, harrowed once, and on 1st of September sowed to wheat and harrowed again; then sowed eight quarts clover seed to the acre, and harrowed again, making three plowings and seven harrowings.

The result was, the harvest following the straw stood six feet upon the ground, and very thick, and I had thirty bushels of wheat to the acre. I attribute so much straw to the excessive cultivation.

*Now for the clover:* It came up well; I let it stand three years; the first year I plastered ten acres, three pecks per acre. The result was, that the part which was plastered yielded 2½ tons per acre, when the balance of the field, 10 acres, yielded only ½ ton per acre. The season being very dry, I cut it merely to clear the ground of



stubble and what sorrel remained. This experiment shows the advantage of plaster in dry seasons.

I have plastered clover every year for the last eight years, and have never failed to cut from two to two and a half tons per acre, wet or dry seasons. I have pursued nearly the same course from year to year, with the same result, until the whole of the 80 acres has been set to clover.—And now, Mr. Editor, if one can find a patch of sorrel on the 80 acres, he has to look as if he was in pursuit of something lost. It is true there may be found here and there a patch, but it looks rather ashamed.

My rule of cultivation on the above eighty acres has been, after a field has been in clover 3 years, sow to wheat the following year, cut the first crop of clover, turn under the second, and sow to wheat again.

*Sowing wheat on timothy and blue grass sod.*—I have thought it remarkable, when I have heard some of your correspondents say that they have made heavy crops of wheat upon timothy sod, for I must be candid enough to say that I have tried it several times on timothy and blue grass, (or June grass, as some call it,) and have never succeeded in making more than half a crop. There is invariably so heavy a crop of timothy, and other grasses, as to impoverish the wheat; the consequence is, the crop is small, the kernel shrunken more or less, and not so bright a color—at least, this is my experience. If any one of your contributors will inform us how he tills timothy sod to make 20 bushels to the acre, I will tell him how I make 25 to 30 on clover, if the land is good.

*Plastering wheat.*—I have plastered wheat several years, much to the advantage of the crop, especially on pure clover sods, (no timothy.) Every experienced farmer knows that wheat sowed on sod has a yellow appearance in the fall and spring, and the application of half a bushel of plaster per acre, will restore its color in ten days, and push it along rapidly in its growth, so that when it heads out there will be no suckers, but it will have an even, or level appearance, and five bushels of wheat to the acre extra.

*Lapping greensward.*—Our friend Gage, of Dowagiac, has been kind enough, in the last No. of the Farmer, to give his views in answer to an inquiry of mine in a former No., relative to lapping greensward. I am constrained to differ with Mr. G. in his first position, that the lapping assists the decomposition. This might be answered differently, but I will answer it by asking one question—Will not a heavy board, laid flat upon the ground, decompose, or cause the vegetable matter under it to rot, sooner than if one edge of the board rested on the edge of another? I think it would, and believe the comparison applicable.

His next reason for lapping is, that the cavities formed by the furrows being placed in that position, serve as nitre chambers for the collection of

different gases, which are there retained until their final absorption by the soil. Now it would have been more satisfactory if Mr. Gage had told us where those gases came from. If they come from the earth, their tendency would be upwards; if from the atmosphere, (if necessary) the earth would absorb them without the necessity of cavities.

*Flat furrows.*—I will now give some reasons why I prefer flat furrows: First, because it more readily accomplishes the process of decomposition by being more capable of retaining moisture. The question might be asked, why should that be the case? I answer by saying that lapped furrows allow heavy rains to filter through and occupy the cavities below for the time being, so that as soon as the rays of a hot sun fall upon the surface of the ground, the moisture, what little of it is left in the sod, is soon evaporated, and the sod becomes dry; consequently vegetation becomes impaired for want of moisture. Lapped furrows are the frequent cause of failure in spring, as well as in fall crops, especially the oat crop, for the above reasons.

Secondly, I prefer flat furrows because, in cross-plowing or otherwise, the sod or ground is firmer, holds to the mould-board, and is turned better, and makes smoother work. Lapped furrows make rough fields, unless the sod be thoroughly rotted. Seven years ago I summer-fallowed a piece of timothy, and cross-plowed before it was thoroughly rotted; the consequence was that it was cut into square chunks, leaving the ground very rough to the present time, tho' it has been plowed several times and rolled three times. Many of these chunks plow up now, like squares of turf, the blue-grass growing on all sides. Is not this the experience of some of my brother farmers? Let them answer. In a field so plowed, a person frequently breaks through over his shoe top, when walking over it, after the crop is taken off.

*Harrowing lapped furrows.*—There is another item I wish to notice in relation to lapped furrows, and as I am on the opposition I shall differ from many of my well-meaning brother farmers. I contend that the work cannot be done in so workmanlike a manner as if the sod was jointed, from the fact that the ridges occasioned from lapping, prevent the harrow teeth from doing their duty upon the under furrow, or sod. And again, the harrow takes off about one-third of the subsoil from the upper furrow, and places it upon about one-fourth of the under furrow, leaving the high ridge with but very little subsoil; and this is the place, or portion of the ground where the grass makes its first appearance, in consequence of the subsoil being partially harrowed off. The work, when done, may look fair, but it is deceptive. I am convinced that if the readers of the Farmer would give this subject as thorough an investigation as I have done, many of them would come to the same conclusion.

Mr. Editor, when I commenced writing this communication, I was at a loss as to what I should say, but after making the attempt, I found so many subjects presented to my mind, that I felt constrained to say a little upon each. You will therefore please excuse its length, and dispose of it as you think it best deserves.

There are some other subjects upon which I would like to say something, but for want of room must defer.\* Yours,

WM. DOUGHERTY.

\* Say it, by all means.—Ed.

The following communications on the best way of clearing timbered land, were designed for our last number, and of course their authors could have known nothing of the communication which appeared in that No. on the subject, nor of the views of each other:

#### CLEARING TIMBERED LAND.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Editor:

You tell us to sit down, during some of these long winter evenings, and give the readers of the Farmer some of the fruits of our observation and experience. Now this is too handsome an invitation to be trifled with—so I'll try it. If you hav'n't room for such stuff, just throw it in the fire, and tell no one that I wrote it.

There are many large forests of beech, maple, and other timber, in our State, destined undoubtedly to be succeeded by beautiful, fertile, and well cultivated farms. The inquiry naturally follows, "How can a farm be made in the timbered land forest, *soonest, cheapest, and best?*" Mr. Theory has a good many "first rate"—ways, but neighbor Experience don't care anything about them—he never saw them tried. There are many ways in which heavy timbered land is cleared, and I will enumerate some of them:

##### NO. I---SOONEST WAY.

In the spring, after the snow is off, the underbrush and saplings are cut and piled into heaps, three or four rods apart. The trees are cut into 12 or 14 feet lengths, and the brush piled very snug and neat; the brush are burned in the first dry weather—green, of course; the logs are then drawn and rolled into large, close heaps. If the heaps are not large and snug they burn badly.—The heaps are fired, and the rubbish picked up and thrown on; the rail lengths are drawn where the fence is built, split into rails and laid into fence. The ground is harrowed with a heavy drag drawn by oxen; it is then planted to some sort of crop that may be taken off in time to sow wheat, which is sown without plowing, harrowed and cross-harrowed. The ground is now considered "cleared," although there is a green stump in almost every place where a tree was, and just as likely as not, a plenty of sprouts also.

Some sow herds-grass in the spring, and use the land for meadow or pasture till the stumps rot. Others keep on tearing around among the roots and stumps till they are dug out; and by this time, just as likely as not, the land has become poor, and the owner has become poor, and what is still worse, discouraged; and no wonder—he has paid too dear for the whistle by getting a farm in the *soonest way*. I will try and make a plain and fair estimate of the cost of clearing, per acre, in this way:

For chopping an acre,	\$ 5.00
" burning the brush, between 1 and 2 days' work,	1.00
" logging, 1½ days' work of 3 men and a team, at 5s. per day,	3.75
" burning log heaps, 2 days' work,	1.25
" drawing, splitting, and laying up 300 rails, (a fair proportion per acre,)	3.00

I make the cost of clearing, in this way, \$14.00 per acre, and I believe the real cost would be as likely to exceed as to fall short of this estimate.

##### NO. II---A BETTER WAY.

The chopping is done in the summer, as soon as the leaves are out on the trees. The underbrush, saplings, and brush, are piled into winrows, 4, 5, or 6 rods apart, as circumstances or opinions may dictate. The trunks of trees are cut into 15 or 18 feet lengths, and by falling the tree tops into winrows, the logs lie more nearly parallel to each other than when their tops are fallen into brush heaps, and of course the logging is more easily done on this account. The chopping is finished as soon as possible, so that the timber would have some time to dry. The whole is done well and neat. The winrows are fired about harvest time, and generally burn up well without much work. The ground is cleared and sown to wheat, and seeded to herds-grass, to lie in meadow and pasture till the stumps rot, say 5 to 10 years. Estimated cost:

Chopping, per acre,	\$5.00
Burning brush, ½ day's work,	.31
1½ days, 3 hands and a team, at 5s. per day, logging,	3.13
Burning log heaps, 2 days' work,	1.25
Fencing, about	3.00

Cost per acre, in this way, \$12.69

##### NO. III---A GOOD WAY,

Consists in underbrushing while the leaves are on, (the month of August is a good time;) chopping the timber the following winter into 20 or 25 feet lengths; allowing it to have until after harvest to get dry, and then clear it; sowing the ground to wheat, and sowing clover, or clover and timothy mixed, about March, before the snow is off; mowing 2 or 3 crops of hay; summer fallowing, and following up with rotation of

crops, if one chooses. Estimated cost per acre:

Chopping,	\$5.00
Burning the brush does not take any time worth mentioning,	—
1 day's work of 3 hands and a team, logging,	2.50
2 days at burning log heaps,	1.25
Fencing, say	3.00

Cost per acre, in this way, \$11.75

#### NO. IV---THE POPULAR WAY,

Consists in cutting the under-brush into winrows, 4 rods apart; falling the tops of all the trees (except lumber and rail timber,) into winrows; cutting off the limbs and brush; letting the timber lie about two years; then chopping the rail timber; burning it in a dry time; then either doing the little chopping necessary, logging, fencing, tilling, and so forth, or sowing grass seed and clearing it at convenient times. In case of clearing right up as soon as burnt, I judge the total cost, to be about ten dollars to the acre.

#### NO. V---GIRDLING,

Consists in cutting two tier of hacks, about 2 inches apart and an inch or two deep, around the trunks of all the trees of any size, (except rail or lumber timber.) The hacks are made about five feet from the ground, so as to give a chance to chop the tree below the cavity of the hack, which is made by throwing out a diamond-shaped chip. The object of such a cavity is to hold water, which helps to rot and kill the tree.

When the timber has been girdled about five years, the saplings and under-brush are cut and thrown into winrows, 4 or more rods apart. August is a good time, because the stubs of the saplings will not throw out sprouts much, if they are cut then. The girdled timber is then fallen on the winrows as much as possible; then the rail timber is cut down, so that the brush may burn with the winrows, which are fired as soon as the brush is dry enough to burn easily. I am informed by those whom I have confidence in, that girdled timber, managed in this way, will nearly all burn.

It is apparent to me, that this is the cheapest way to clear land, and that land cleared in this way will be richer and looser, and in far better condition for any kind of crop than when it is robbed of the forest crop one year, and of a wheat crop the next. I look upon forest ground as being already covered with a giant crop, that is drawing upon the productive qualities of the soil to their fullest extent. If this is a correct view, then which course is best?—to sweep the forest and plant and cultivate other crops among the stumps and roots; or to arrest the draught of the forest crop upon the soil, and give it a resting spell while the roots are rotting, and the ground is getting into a better state for tillage? I have just conversed with a man who says he knows from experience that the roots of a girdled tree

will decay sooner than those of a stump, and that a single tier of hacks is better than throwing out a chip.

But it is time for me to "hold on," or this piece will be considered worthless because it is so lengthy.

Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM.\*

P.S. As the correspondents of the Farmer live in different sections of the State, would it not be a good plan to describe the weather at the time of writing? We had a heavy rain last night; warm, s. w. wind and wet looking clouds this morning. Walton, Jan. 9th.

\* Please let us hear from you again.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir: Having seen in your valuable paper, an account of the best method of clearing timbered land, by winrowing, and having lived thirty-five years, and most of the time been accustomed to clearing timber land, and that too, by winrowing, I would therefore suggest a better way, viz: by girdling—say in the full moon of June. Girdle everything but rail timber, and be sure and cut through the bark, and leave no seams uncut.

Let the girdled timber stand 4 or 5 years, then fall the timber criss-cross and every way; do it in a dry time, and touch fire to it, and my word for it, you will never attempt to log green timber again.

Be sure to girdle high, so that you can chop below the girdling in cutting down the timber.—Above the girdling it will be very hard. Leave all the small brush to shade the ground—a stump will rot soonest in the shade.

When I practiced clearing timber land by girdling, I lived in Canada, where it was universally adopted, and why may it not be here? I have neither time nor talent to show the great advantages derived from girdling; I hope some person will who is adequate to the task. You said, never mind the language for you would attend to that; do so, if you please.\*

A SUBSCRIBER.

\* Very good.—Ed.

#### A CHALLENGE.

Letter from Geo. E. Pomeroy, Esq., late of Pomeroy & Wells' Express, now turned farmer.

CLINTON, Feb. 8, 1851.

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir: I am obliged to you for the two numbers of the Farmer sent me; being an eastern man, I had thought (of course,) that no agricultural paper printed west could be equal to an eastern one. But I find the Farmer well adapted to this western country, as the eastern papers are peculiarly adapted to the east. Go



on strong in this good work, and be assured of my feeble aid.

Mr. P. adds: "I challenge, as one of the Executive Committee of the Lenawee county Agricultural Society, any county in Michigan to make as good a show, *all through*, as Lenawee county, at the county fair; and you may appoint the judge. If our county is beaten, I will pay his expenses and \$2 per day.

I think this county will make a show that she may be proud of, and we will try hard to beat the State fair.

I am much pleased that you are to be at the World's Fair.\*

Yours, &c.

GEO. E. POMEROY.

\* Enclosed were the names of three new subscribers, with pay for one year.—Ed.

### SOBER FACTS, AND THE REASONS FOR THEM.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Editor:

The license you give to subscribers, to give to the readers of the Farmer their experience in matters pertaining to the interest of the farming community, &c., encourages me to offer a few remarks.

In the first place, then, I have taken a little pains to obtain subscribers for the Farmer, within the bounds of my acquaintance, and one difficulty is, that there are many farmers who are so perfectly satisfied with their own knowledge of farming, that they are prejudiced against anything that comes in the shape of book-farming; a prejudice which I believe mainly originated in the reading of eastern agricultural papers, which treat of a mode of farming not at all adapted to our wants and circumstances. Now to me the Michigan Farmer seems to meet the exigency of our case; here is a channel through which the farmers of Michigan can obtain every variety of experience, relating to all the different kinds of management, and the different kinds of soil in which this state abounds.

A notice, or remark, in the Detroit Advertiser, respecting the prize essay on wheat-growing, and the contemplated visit (of the Editor of the Farmer,) to the World's Fair, caused me to enlist in the cause of circulating the Farmer, and now the result is, every one of our club is satisfied that the essay on wheat growing alone is worth the amount of the year's subscription; and yet there are eleven numbers to come, that must contain something which will apply to some of our wants. This essay on wheat growing is the first thing of the kind in which I have ever seen the consideration of bringing a less amount of labor into requisition for the obtaining of good or better crops—a matter of great importance here, on account of the scarcity of help, and the shortness of our growing seasons; a great deal of labor has

to be done in a very few months, in order to go through with all the routine of farming.\*

A. D. SULLIVAN.

Southfield, Feb. 10th, '51.

\* That is encouraging. We believe that not a single copy of the Michigan Farmer went into the neighborhood where Mr. S. resides, previously to his having thus accidentally made its acquaintance. But through his instrumentality quite a club has been raised there, which is constantly increasing. The portion of Mr. S's communication relating to corn culture, is necessarily deferred till our next number.—Ed.

### AGRICULTURAL GEOLOGY.

Rocks are the oxyds of metals. Sillex, the most abundant ingredient in rocks, mountains, and soils, is the oxyd of silicium. This oxyd constitutes nearly one-half of the solid matter of our globe. It is the principal element of quartz, in all its varieties, which are exceedingly numerous, and some of them very beautiful. Quartz is the only mineral found everywhere. Sand is pulverized quartz. Pebbles are fragments of quartz, rounded by attrition. Gun flint is quartz, breaking with a conchoidal (shell like) fracture. Jasper is red quartz, with a fine compact texture. Amethyst is purple quartz, frequently found in six-sided crystals, which is the common shape of quartz crystals in its different varieties. Agate is clouded quartz, in numerous varieties, some of which are much used for watch-seals, finger-rings, breast-pins, and other ornaments. Cornelian is a fine quartz, and of a yellowish red color. Chalcedony, bloodstone, catseye, and many other gems, are varieties of quartz.

Most, perhaps all, the gems used in the breast-plate of Aaron, the high priest, were quartz of different textures, colors, and hues. The precious stones presented by the Queen of Sheba to the King of Isreal were probably quartz. The stone mentioned in the Book of Revelations as forming the streets of the New Jerusalem, with all the gems referred to, were but varieties of the stones used for paving our streets, and of the earth moved by the plow and the hoe of the farmer, and of the dirt carted for filling our docks.

The coloring matter giving most of the beautiful hues to gem, and an endless variety to quartz, is the oxyd of iron. The oxyd of silicium and the oxyd of iron are hence united in the most abundant mineral in the world.

Next to quartz, feldspar, or clay formed by the decomposition of feldspar, is the most abundant element of soils. This, too, is composed of several oxyds of metals in chemical combination. Feldspar is also very extensively united with quartz in the formation of rocks, not by chemical combination, but mechanical mixture. The feldspar and the quartz can be separated by the hammer. Not so with oxygen and silicium, forming sillex.

Chemical agency alone can separate chemical combinations. Such combinations in rocks, soils, and other mineral bodies, are exceedingly numerous, complicated and delicate. The most common stone that meets the eye in any part of the world is composed of two oxyds. The oxygen and the metals are each united by chemical affinity, and then the two oxyds are again combined by the same agency, to form a common stone, evidently worthy of more respect than it commonly receives.

An experiment: Pour upon a little pearlsh, in a tumbler, some strong vinegar. An effervescence will follow, producing carbonic acid. A burning candle immersed will be extinguished, showing that carbonic acid is fatal to combustion. It is equally so to life.—*Holbrook.*

### FROM A WHEAT-GROWER.

*For the Michigan Farmer,*

Brownstown, Feb. 6, 1851.

Mr. Editor:

Excuse my impudence in thus troubling you with more of my yarns,\* and allow me, by way of introduction to say a word in behalf of the Michigan Farmer.

It is good, better, best, all the while. The wheat growing essay is just the thing, according to my observations, of something more than twenty years. It is worth at least—what price shall I put upon it? Why, it is above price in dollars and cents, to any person who depends on tilling the soil for a living. Especially let them not forget the draining, and above all the deep plowing. That's the thing that puts money in the pocket, (after culture corresponding of course to the plowing.)

I have three different farms in my mind's eye, that have yielded over twenty bushels, on the average, for the last seven years, if not for ten years, and no extra cultivation. The process was the naked summer fallow, plowed deep with good double teams; soil clay, as most people call it, (I think it misnamed, however.) The said farms yielded 23 and 24 bushels per acre the harvest before last, which was universally a poor one through this section.

My choice as to the proper time for sowing wheat in Michigan, or New York, would be, take one year with another, the first fifteen days of September, letting the exceptions, before and after these days, go to the winds. I have no confidence in them.

WAYNE.

\* The article referred to as bearing a previous date, is necessarily deferred to our next No. The above apology is entirely out of place, coming as it does from one of the best farmers in Wayne county. Rather should he have apologized for having troubled us so little with his "yarns."—Ed.

*For the Michigan Farmer.*

SCHOOLCRAFT, Jan. 26th, 1851.

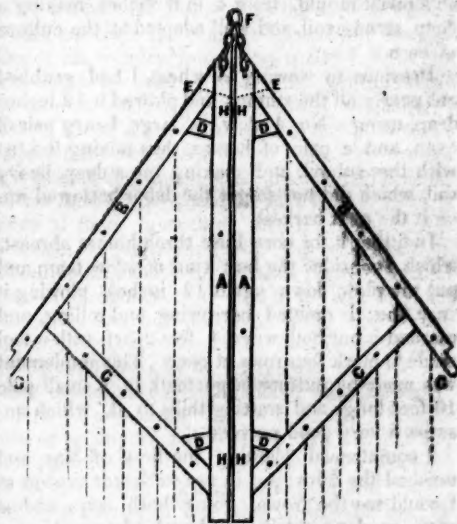
Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir: I enclose to you the draft of a new fashioned harrow, made by my brother, Samuel Moore, of Park township, St. Joseph county. He is a practical farmer, of the right kind, and has a good degree of mechanical ingenuity.

This construction of a harrow is entirely new to the public. He has never made but one, and that he has had in use several years. He says that it does the work better, and runs much steadier than the double triangled hinged harrow, on account of the hindmost teeth being near the centre. It is also much easier to get around stumps, and much stronger in its construction.

His harrow is made to work 6 feet wide, and each tooth runs at a distance of 4 inches from the other. The timber is sawed,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, which he said was the proper size, and much better to be square than flat, so that a side may be chosen opposite from the grain of the wood, to bore for the teeth—for if they are put with the grain the timber will soon crack, and the teeth become loose and weak in their holes, nor will it last so long.

ANDREW Y. MOORE.



A A, timber  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet long,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches square.

B B, do  $5\frac{1}{2}$  " " " " "

C C, do  $4\frac{1}{2}$  " " " " "

D D D D, flat braces, 1 inch thick, 3 inches at one end and 2 at the other, drawn through tapering mortices and pinned.

E E, iron bolts, with screw.

F, staples, chains, and rig for hitching to.

G, handles, rounded out of the timber.

H H H H, iron hinges, to connect the two sides.

# IMMENSE PROFIT OF A CORN CROP— DEEP CULTURE—AN EXPERIMENT.

For the Michigan Farmer.

RAWSONVILLE, Feb. 5, 1851.

Mr. Isham:

I feel some delicacy in attempting to write anything to be published, as I am an old fashioned man, and unaccustomed to do such things. But from frequent invitations through your valuable paper, which I have had the pleasure of perusing since July last, I feel at liberty to write in my own way, and use my own language, and leave the rest to you.

In the spring of '49 I had 30 acres of stubble land, which I concluded to plant to corn; the result I give you below. My farm is small, consisting of only 80 acres, and 50 improved, of what is generally termed low, level land, in its natural state heavily timbered with oak, hickory, whitewood, ash, sycamore, elm, &c., except about 25 acres, which was timbered with maple, beech, lynn, whitewood, &c., all made tillable by drainage.

The soil is a deep sand and gravel, varying from 2 to 3½ feet in depth, and the subsoil slightly intermixed with clay. This was covered with an alluvial mould, from 4 to 6 inches, making a deep, strong soil, and well adapted to the culture of corn.

Previous to sowing to wheat, I had grubbed out nearly all the stumps, and plowed it 12 inches deep, using a No. 4 plow, a large, heavy pair of oxen, and a pair of horses, thus mixing the top with the subsoil, and making me a deep, heavy soil, which did not forget the labor bestowed upon it the next harvest.

In fitting it for corn I use three horses abreast, which I consider the best kind of plow team, and put my plow down again 12 inches, plowing it very fine; I omitted harrowing and rolling, and marked it out both ways, 4 feet apart, with a tool made to mark four rows at once. This implement was made by putting large teeth in a small pole 16 feet long, and putting thills to it, which answers a very good purpose.

I commenced planting the first of May and finished the 20th; put in my cultivator as soon as I could see the rows, going both ways, and as soon as done put in my shovel plow each way, hoeing it both times immediately after plowing; cultivated it both ways without hoeing, thus leaving the ground perfectly level and clean.

This crop averaged me 68 bushels per acre, of as handsome corn as ever grew; 8 acres of it yielded 50 bushels, 14 1-2 acres 69½ bushels, and the remaining 7 1-2 acres yielded 85 bushels of shelled corn per acre.

The expense of cultivation I will give you below, including hauling to market, six miles, the cost per acre, &c:

Dr. To plowing, 24 days, at \$2,	\$48.00
Marking, man and horses, 3 days, 8s.	3.00
Seed corn, 6 bu., 50c.,	3.00
Planting, 15 days, 75c.,	11.25
Cultivating, man and team, 12 days, 1.50,	18.00
Hoeing, 30 days, 75,	22.50
Husking and putting in house, 51 days, 75,	38.25
Threshing, man and boy, 13 days, 1.12 1-2,	14.62
Hauling to market, 23 days, 2.00,	46.00
Interest on land, at \$50 per acre,	105.00

Total expense, \$319.62

Cr. By 240 bushels corn, at 62c. per bu. \$856.80  
319.62

Leaving a nett profit of \$537.18

Cost to secure crop, 7 1-2 cts. per bushel;

" including shelling and marketing, 10 do.;

" interest on land, 15½c. per bu.

This, you will perceive, is based on the supposition that I hired my work by the day, and each man board himself, which was not the case, myself and son doing all the work except \$20.00 worth by the day in planting and hoeing, and a few days in husking.

Thus it will be seen that my land yielded a nett profit of \$17.90 per acre, being three times as much as the generality of wheat, beside losing the use of the land sown to wheat one year in summer-fallowing.

Here, perhaps, I might as well give the result of an experiment in growing corn, which convinces me that it ought to remain in the hill in its natural state, until husked. Corn in the same field cut and shocked, topped and left standing till husked, weighed as follows:

Cut and shocked,	54 lbs. per bushel.
Topped when considered fit to cut up,	56 " " "
Left standing till husked,	58 " " "

Enclosed I send you \$1 for the Farmer, commencing July, 1850, which I consider well worth the money.\* I remain

Yours truly,

N. J. BROWN.

\* Well, friend B., does it not look well enough on paper—well enough to encourage you to try again?—Ed.

A HIT.—Our friends of the Prairie Farmer say they are not under the necessity of sending out great pictures, as the Genesee Farmer has, as a decoy to entrap subscribers, but depend upon the substantial character of their work to recommend it. But are you not wrong, neighbors? We supposed there was a great deal to be learned from that great picture. It is reported about



here, that if it be pasted up over the farmer's mantel-piece, where he can take two or three good looks at it every day, for a year, he will become such an adept in farming, especially in wheat-growing, that those who have not enjoyed this advantage "won't know nothin' about it," compared to him. This being so, for pity's sake don't interfere, and spoil it all.

So far as we are concerned, instead of a picture, we sent out our wheat essay, and we think it is doing up the work quite as well as a picture would, and we hope our subscribers will find it at least as profitable.

For the Michigan Farmer.

#### ARTESIAN WELLS.

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir: A writer in the last No. of the Farmer, complains that you had either not made inquiry about Artesian Wells. or that you had not given what information you had received to your readers.

I propose in this to help you a little out of your trouble, by saying that I have had some experience in boring for water, mostly in the State of New York, and once in this place. It is impossible to state the expense per foot with any degree of exactness, as it will vary from ten cts. to ten dollars, depending entirely on what you have to bore through.

If the rock bored through is quite free from fissures, or if it should be hard clay, the water will generally flow to the surface and discharge itself. And if the rock has fissures, or openings, or if sand is penetrated, tubing becomes necessary, which adds greatly to the expense.

I superintended the boring of the first experiment made at the Onondaga salt springs for salt water, in which I was successful; the rock was a soft clay, the auger was two and a half inches in diameter; at the depth of seventy-three feet we struck a vein of salt water, which rose to the surface and discharged five thousand gallons per hour. In several other instances I have known the water to flow to the surface.

The experiment I made in this place was successful in finding water, but it did not rise nearer the surface than about five feet. A well was then dug, about ten feet deep, and regularly stoned up, around the hole bored, and the well usually had about five feet of water in it.

In all cases boring for water is hazardous, but in some locations the risk is quite small. To give a description of the manner of boring would take too much space in your paper, but if "Inquirer" will address me, I will give all the information I possess in relation to it—or, which would be better, if not too far distant, to call on me.

I think I have seen many locations in Michigan, where boring might be done and water ob-

tained at much less expense than by digging wells. I have been told that there was an artesian well on the Chicago road, east of Ypsilanti, but have never seen it.

If what I have written will, in your opinion, be of any advantage to "Inquirer," or any of your numerous readers, you are at liberty to publish it.\*

S. B. NOBLE.

\* Much obliged.—Ed.

#### AGRICULTURAL DARKNESS.

Occasionally a neighborhood like the one described below, is to be met with within our bounds, but such neighborhoods are getting scarce of late.

Editor of the Mich. Farmer:

I have have delayed writing thus long, in hopes that I should be able to induce some of my neighbors to take the Farmer and forward the money; but one says, "I am too poor," another must have a political paper, and cannot afford to take but one; another has no faith in book farming, and knows no way to learn but by experience; another had rather hear farmer Such-a-one tell his method of farming than to read all the agricultural papers that were ever printed, not considering that the method would be the same if published, as it is when given orally.

Now, in reply to the first, I say I am too poor to do without the Farmer; to the second, while I would not have the yeoman ignorant of the politics of his country, much less would I have him ignorant of his calling; to the third, while I would by no means have him pin his faith on another's sleeve, I would have him learn from other men's experience; and to the fourth I say, the Farmer is a written description of the method and practice of our best farmers, and he that cannot learn of some of them something that he can reduce to practice, is equally blind with him who would indiscriminately follow all, without regard to difference of circumstances. But if we will think for ourselves, use our judgments as to how far the improvements are adapted to our circumstances, we may all profit by an intercourse with one another through the medium of our valuable paper.

P.S. I am aware that with editors it is considered an unpardonable sin to take a paper and not to pay for it; but let me ask which is worst, to do so, or to refuse to take an agricultural paper, and then borrow of him that does take one, or wait until the owner of it has reduced to practice the suggestions contained in his paper, and then copy his practice? Perhaps to the discriminating mind of an editor the difference may be palpable, but I confess that, to the mind of a plain farmer, unused to metaphysical disquisitions, the case is not so plain.

Yours, &c.

Plow Jogger.\*

Springport, Jan. 27th, 1851.

\* Will Plow Jogger give some little bits of his own experience in farming?—Ed.

## Educational Department.

For the Michigan Farmer.

PLINT, Jan. 15th, 1851.

Mr. Isham:

Sir: I perceived, in the November number of the Farmer, a notice to the effect that if the friends of education wish the Educational Department continued, they must sustain it by contributions. Now, I profess to be a friend of national and popular education; therefore I will write a few lines upon this important subject, and if you consider my scribbles worthy a place in the columns of the Farmer, perhaps I will, at some future day, try my hand again.

First, then, what is education? It is that knowledge which mankind needs, in order to perform the various avocations of life, with correctness, precision, and ability.\* According to this definition of the term, in order to obtain a thorough education, the student must be instructed in every kind of business in which he engages, whether agricultural, horticultural, mechanical, mercantile, professional, literary, or political.

It is a well known axiom, that a man cannot perform any business or calling properly, until he becomes acquainted with the principles upon which that calling is founded. Hence the physician can do nothing in his profession, unless he first becomes acquainted with the human system, and the nature and power of medicine. And the mechanic must first obtain a knowledge of the principles of his calling, ere he can become a master workman. Neither can the farmer practice his agricultural pursuits upon scientific principles, until he understands the different elements of which the soil is composed, and its qualities as adapted to the growth of the different kinds of grain. He also must know the quality and quantity of manure this or that field requires. Hence the necessity of introducing into our common schools such text books as will enable those young men who intend to become farmers, to obtain a scientific knowledge of the true principles upon which the cultivation of the soil is founded.

This science has never been introduced, to any considerable extent, into our common schools, and many a young farmer *has* and *must* learn from experience, that which he would already know, were this system of book farming introduced into our schools. Let this science be taught as an important branch of education, and the young man, when he leaves school and turns his attention to the cultivation of the soil, instead of plodding on in the ways of his forefathers of the third and fourth generation, and guessing at the soil best adapted to the growth of this or that seed, will be prepared to commence on scientific principles, sow his seed upon right soil, and cultivate in the right manner.

But, lest I trespass too much in this first at-

tempt to figure in print, I will quit my scribbling, and subscribe myself,†

Respectfully yours,

WM. L. ELLSWORTH.

\* We would make this definition a little broader—the first and a very essential part of education being that *discipline of the faculties* which is necessary to the acquisition and right use of the knowledge adapted, &c.—Ed.

† Good, for the first effort—try again.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

## EDUCATION OF FARMERS AND MECHANICS.

ADRIAN, 29th Jan. '51.

Mr. Isham:

Sir: You are the constituted champion of the farmer and laboring men of Michigan. Well, what of it? Why this—that the laws of the State are framed by lawyers and for lawyers, and men supposed by lawyers to be of like grade. We farmers support the University; for whom is the system of education, and the facilities for obtaining knowledge therein, designed? Not for the farmer or mechanic, for no one can participate who shall not have acquired a certain quantity of Latin and Greek.

I had a son whom I wished to educate as a mechanic. It was my desire that he should know German, some French, and have the advantage afforded by the lectures on scientific subjects, and on moral and political philosophy. In short, I wished him to have a practical education. I wished to participate in the benefits of an institution that *should* be adapted to the wants of the chief occupations of our people.

The dead languages are every day getting *deader* in public esteem and private use; but my son must spend years in their acquisition, as a pre-requisite to enter an institution supported by all. In knowing German, he would be enabled to converse with, and give employment, perhaps, to some of the great number who flock to our shores and become a portion of our people. The French language, too, is becoming so incorporated with our own, by the constant introduction from it of new words and phrases, that it is becoming indispensable to the man of literary taste, and I hope my son will become such. Science and literature, as you know, are more practically useful to the mechanic and farmer than to the lawyer and doctor. The clergyman should know everything, if Cicero's notions of an orator are correct.

Well, our University—what does it do to educate the farmer's son, for a farmer?—what to make scientific mechanics?—what to form business men?

Yours,

J. W. SCOTT.

REMARK: While we would not abate one iota from the completeness and thoroughness of a col-

ege course, as carried out in our best institutions, there can be no doubt that such a modification of it as will enable all to avail themselves of its advantages, to qualify themselves for their various pursuits, without going through the entire routine, is highly desirable, and an improvement which the exigency of the times demands. The internal economy of Brown University, at Providence, R. I., has, we think, already undergone a modification of this kind.—Ed.

## Ladies' Department.

### A WORD TO CITY LADIES, AND A WORD ABOUT CITY GENTS, OR SOME OF THEM.

*For the Michigan Farmer.*

Mr. Isham:

We have had in your paper for the last year, advice and encouragement for the country girl, or rather farmer's daughter, upon both mental and moral improvement. Much seed has been scattered in the forest—God grant that it may bring forth fruit worthy of its sowers. But why, sir, confine instructions to the farmer's daughter alone? Are not the young ladies who breathe the air of our cities and villages worthy and needy of advice? They are not below those blessed with unrestrained country freedom, nor yet above them. Then let us not neglect them; and allow me, through your valuable paper, to speak to them.

The gentlemen tell us, young ladies of Michigan, that we rule the world. This we doubt, but that we possess an influence, and a great influence, is probably true. Woman holds in her hand a mighty weapon, that may be wielded in the defense of right, and in the cause of virtue, or it may be the instrument of death to purity and nobleness of soul. All who approach her, inevitably, to some extent, see as she sees, feel as she feels, and act as she acts; and the motives that control her heart, she instills into theirs. Her approbation, to some, is the greatest prize, and her frown the thing to be most dreaded.

With this power in our hands, what should be our object in life? To play the part of unthinking, unfeeling creatures, pleased only by a sickly compliment or gaudy dress?—to be the devotee at the shrine of fashion, and sacrifice there all that is high and holy in the heart? 'Twas not for this that God taught the pulse to play. Then up, and cast off the chain, before all that is womanly is obliterated in your heart, for each day it is drawing tighter—every moment plunges you deeper in darkness as regards right. There are many things that fashion requires, that are foolish and wrong, but upon only one shall I touch.

Why is it, young ladies, that the young gentlemen of our cities and towns fail to fulfill the promises of their early youth? Their massive,

intellectual heads, show them to be men of mind, and the occasional wise remarks scattered through their senseless conversation, as an oasis in a desert, bespeak for them education and knowledge of the world; but they approach one with a swaggering gait and stupid look, that too truly tells the tale of midnight revelry and devotion to the wine cup. But when was this taste acquired?—Look at home, in your own parlors—gaze upon the sparkling wine that decks your table—think of the many, many times you have asked a gentleman to take a glass of wine with you, and charge upon yourselves the ruin you see. 'Tis a sad truth, that you are the cause of the downfall of those who were created in the image of God, who received from him the rich gift of genius, and hearts beating with impulses true to the right. Many of you have persuaded a young man to receive his first glass from your hand—many of you have prevailed upon some who have been bound by the chain of intemperance, and manfully broken away, to return again to his former state of bondage.—The voice, the eye, the smile, the speaking cheek, the manner, all urge him onward. You may never have thought what you were doing; but think *now*—think how many affectionate wives in the future, may have cause to curse you as the destroyer of their happiness—how many worse than fatherless children will, with their little hands raised to heaven, call the wrath of God to rest upon the one who gave their father his first glass—think of the aged parents' hearts made lone and desolate by your thoughtlessness.

Shame!—shame, that those who call themselves women so far forget their God, their responsibility, their honor, the dignity and purity of woman's character, as to place temptation in the way of gentlemen, to point out and urge them on in the path of misery! Young ladies stop!—let the hearts you have blasted, the minds you have wasted, suffice—go no farther in your course of sin.

Perhaps I have spoken too freely; if you think so, look calmly at the subject, as regards not only the present, but the future—then you will not wonder that my spirit was moved within me, when I saw those upon whose shoulders our Union is to rest, who are to make our laws, who have in their keeping the public weal or woe, dragged down and debased by a thoughtless action upon your part, to afford you a moment's pleasure. And although you have power to influence the talented now, who bow in an evil moment to the power of your fascinations, still you have no claim upon their esteem, and when the spell is past, they will think of their temptress only to loathe one so false.

Then hide your blushing faces in your hands, and pray for strength to dash the wine cup to the earth, and never tempt others, nor taste nor touch the accursed thing again. *Rosie Rortcholliz.\**

\* Please let us hear from you again—do.—Ed.



## LETTER FROM AN AGED VETERAN.

For the Michigan Farmer.

BURR OAK, St. Joseph Co. Mich.

Jan. 12th, 1851.

Mr. Isham:

Sir: Seeing you have invited all classes, old and young, male and female, learned and unlearned, to contribute to the columns of the Mich. Farmer, and having leisure—not being able to labor—I venture to send you a few lines. If you can find out what I write, you are at liberty to dispose of it as you please.

I have read the Farmer for 1850, and the Jan. No. for 1851, and have been well pleased with the manner in which it has been conducted. I believe it is doing good about here. Farmers begin to think they must turn their attention to something beside wheat; they also find they must plow their ground, instead of just rooting the top of it, if they expect to get a crop. Men of talent and experience are giving to the public that information upon the great science of agriculture, and the general use and management of domestic animals, which has been too much neglected for the best interests of the Farmer.

## A WORD FOR THE LADIES.

The interest that the females are taking in this good cause is also highly gratifying to me. I hope the day is not far distant when females will act as though they thought they were intelligent beings, and be treated as such by the other sex. Though individual females have sometimes assumed a part which they ought not, yet as a general thing they have been kept on the back ground, and in this way society has been robbed of much useful intelligence of which it might otherwise have availed itself.

Mr. Editor, I believe that female influence is more powerful and extensive than people generally think it to be. The history of all ages of the world bears witness to the fact—nations and kingdoms have been governed by female influence. Then how important is it that that influence should be directed aright? It is a well known fact, that that purity of religion and morals which the pilgrim fathers possessed, and which was the glory of the New England States for many years, has greatly diminished; sabbath breaking, licentiousness, gambling, profanity, drunkenness, and all their attendant immoralities, have taken the ground which religion and good order once occupied.

I think of but one way that purity of heart and life will be likely to be restored—in that way I think it may be done: Let the young ladies form themselves into societies, and agree that they will not hold correspondence nor sociability with any of the other sex but such as are strictly moral in all their deportment, and I believe a happy change would soon take place in our land, and save many worthy females from degradation and misery. Let none say it cannot be done—it can be done in this way, with the blessing of God, and that blessing he will not withhold.

Young ladies, from your ranks will be selected wives, nursing mothers, and early tutors for those that preach the gospel of Christ, for Presidents, Senators, Governors, teachers, those that till the ground, and all the useful members of society that believe it is not good for man to be alone. Now, my dear female friend, think of the responsible station you are destined to fill, and make good improvement by all the means you have, so that, wherever your lot may be cast, you may act your part for the glory of God, your own happiness, and the good of our nation.

Let some abler pen take up this subject.

AN OLD MAN

that has passed by 72 New Years' days.

N.B. If this should be worth noticing, I may write upon some other subject, as thy servant's business has been about cattle.\*

\* Write.—Ed.

## WHAT SHALL BE DONE FOR THEM?

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir: I have never before attempted to address an editor, yet if you consider these lines worthy of publication, I will direct my first effort for the benefit of that class of ladies which has heretofore been much neglected. I mean those who will pass along from morn till even, year in and year out, without taking the slightest interest in this fast-going age, humming a song in silent mood, and filling themselves and all around them, with feelings of lonely melancholy. We have frequently heard mothers, surrounded by a family of children and all their household affairs, pining and complaining how heavily time passes away.

That she should sit an unsocial and uninteresting thing, amid the inexhaustible sources of meditation which are furnished her by gospel sermon, scientific lectures, district libraries, together with the innumerable productions of the press, is to me almost a mystery. What, Mr. Isham, is to be done for these lonely ones? We should be pleased to hear something on the subject.—My opinion is, that a wider diffusion of knowledge, a deeper interest in domestic affairs, a more active exercise of mind and body, to give energy of thought and elasticity of spirit, would effect at least a partial cure; and for this purpose I think the Farmer peculiarly adapted. It points out ways and means for the exercise of their mental and physical powers, and I rejoice in its increasing circulation.

Yours respectfully,

E.M.T.\*

\* A very good beginning.—Ed.

Our Ladies' Department seems to ebb and flow, like the tides of ocean, there being a full flow at present. But if this announcement shall cause all to stop writing, as we fear it will, there will soon be another disastrous ebb.—We

merely mention the circumstance that you may not regard your articles as neglected, because they do not immediately appear. Keep writing—keep writing. --Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Editor:

Sir: I have been a constant reader of the Farmer for more than a year, and have been very much pleased with it, particularly the Ladies' Department. I think I have of late noticed a falling off—if I may so term it—on the part of the lady contributors, which I must say I am extremely sorry to see.

I would ask of the ladies if they have nothing more to say?—or, if they have become weary, so soon, of using the pen for the benefit of their fellow creatures?\*

I noticed in your last number, an article respecting woman's rights and privileges. I cannot agree with Loyola in some of her opinions in regard to this important subject. She says that she should scorn the idea of so far deviating from her own sphere as to seek to have her name enrolled with those who have died in the service of their country. I would ask, why? Does woman love liberty less than man? Cannot she enjoy that inestimable blessing as well as those who barter their lives to gain it? I answer that she *can* enjoy it; and if that liberty is to be gained by her own undaunted prowess, I ask if she is not justifiable in using her efforts? 'Tis true that in most cases she can equally aid the stronger sex in their struggles for liberty, by punctually performing her duties at home; but when these things have ceased to become duties, compared with those higher ones which are so nearly connected with her happiness, shall the finger of scorn be pointed at her because she goes forth to meet the foe, clad in the armor of the brave soldier? If she falls on the battle-field, a martyr to her home and country, is she less deserving of praise than those who have stouter hearts and stronger limbs? I answer that she is *not*—and she ought to have it, and she will have it, if not now, she will at some future time.

Again, Loyola says that "woman has power. She can wield the pen, and in return for sarcastic remarks offer good sense and sound judgment, and is not this sufficient?" I answer boldly, *no!* If she offer good sense and sound judgment, in return for sarcasm, what avails it if her good sense is turned into derision and her judgment into nothingness? It is like sending an innocent child among savages to civilize them.—According to my opinion, woman must act, as well as speak.

I would say to Loyola, that this is only my opinion—doubtless many will agree with her, and perhaps it were better if they could, but I cannot.

Respectfully yours,

VALERIA.

\* We have a new recruit now.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

## TO FARMER'S DAUGHTERS—LOVE OF FLOWERS.

My dear Young Ladies:

The gentle spring-time is again coming to visit our earth, and us. Who does not respond to the sentiment:

"I yearn for the *spring* when the birds shall sing,  
And each morn shall awake new flowers;  
We have listened long for the wood lark's song,  
And the thrush, at the evening hour.  
'Tis a beautiful time, when the bud first bursts,  
And childlike the young leaf stands,  
And catches the drops of the gentle shower,  
In its small and velvety hands."

A love of nature seems innate in the human heart, and cultivation only is necessary to expand our powers of appreciation, so that the roughest and most barren landscape is a scene of ever changing beauty. I had thought of calling your attention now more particularly to the love of flowers, as a source of improving and expanding the fine feelings of the heart. This love, like every other must be cultivated. Question your inner self—does the thought of returning spring bring no pleasure, save that the chilling winds will have swept by and left us balmy air? Does no thought of the gentle brook, whose margin is dressed in flowers, frail to be sure, as fair, awaken in you longings not satisfied by earth's enjoyment? O I am sure you must have known such thoughts—cherish them—dwell upon them—they will make you wiser, better. Flowers teach us our frailty, and when often made a subject of contemplation, serve to remind us that we shall live again after we have slept "the sleep of death"—and could we be made sensible of the great gain endless life will be to those who have been made wise by the teachings of nature and nature's God, we should long more for its coming than for the return of the bright, beautiful flowers. A love of flowers will not fail to gender in us a love of God and his creatures. What! do no higher thoughts than the indulgence of animal tastes and appetites, occupy the mind and time of one who has been made a "little lower than the angels?" Do *enjoyings* give satisfaction to your destitute being?

And would you be cured of these groveling propensities? Then study the teachings of the simple flower that blooms by your pathway—love it; a God has as truly made that as you—despise not his works, 'tis folly and madness. The spring-time is almost here—commence to cherish its earliest beauties, its first flowers, and forget not the beautiful thoughts they awaken—they will be of great moral service to you—will preserve you from the low indulgence of envy and evil speaking, and all the coarseness and rudeness which such habits create—and more, make you *companions* for the very ones you now envy.

Sincerely yours,

J. ...

Pleasant Farm, Feb. 1851.

## MICHIGAN FARMER.

Warren Isham Editor.

DETROIT, MARCH, 1851.

## LET IT BE REMEMBERED

That we have offered a premium of fifteen dollars in agricultural works, to the man who sends us the largest number of new subscribers, by the first of April next, and ten dollars to the man who sends us the next largest number, by that time.

And furthermore, that we offer the Wool-Grower for one year, to any man who sends us not less than eight, at eighty cts. each—the Michigan Farmer for the current year, or a copy of Mayhew on Education, to the man who sends us a club of not less than fifteen, at 75 cts. each, and both of them to the man who sends us not less than twenty-five at the same price—all in advance.

Although we have named the first of April, we would say that now is the harvest time, and those who neglect much longer getting their clubs, will not be very likely to get them at all. A part of the names may be sent at a time, if the whole cannot be gotten at once.

## HOW TO DO IT.

Of those who have been most efficient in adding so largely to our subscription list, a large number ascribe their success to the influence of our prize essay.

Dr. D. E. Deming, late State Senator, who dates from Ynouski, Kalamazoo Co., as P.M., in a letter transmitting names of new subscribers, and the pay for them, says: "It is the essay on wheat growing which gets the subscribers. I tell them that that essay, to any man who will attentively read it, is well worth the year's subscription."

D. Burrows, of Rose, Oakland county, sends us a club, and says: "Send the January No., for they are all anxious to have the essay. It has been the great means of my success in getting names. I flatter myself that, ere long, instead of some half dozen copies coming to this town, as heretofore, dozens will be sent for."

Our friend J. A. S., of Van Buren county, who continues to send us batches of names every now and then, says: "Your very excellent essay on wheat growing, takes like a charm."

Mr. Sullivan, of Oakland, says of a club which he procured by exhibiting the essay: "They are all satisfied that they have gotten the worth of their year's subscription in the number containing the wheat essay."

Now what we propose is, that our friends generally, take special pains to exhibit the essay to those whose names they solicit. We will send extra copies of it to any who may desire it; and if you get your own numbers worn out, we will send you others. With this, and the consideration of our visiting Europe, great advances may be made, if our friends take advantage of the influences thus at their command, to press the claims of the great cause. Let us see, then, what can be done during the next month—the only one which is to elapse previous to our departure.

## OUR WHEAT ESSAY ABROAD.

A distinguished agriculturist, living in a distant State, who has won an enviable reputation as an author of agricultural works, writes us: "I have read your wheat essay, and find it the best I have ever seen. There is more practical good sense in it than is to be found in all that has before been written upon the subject."

The following notice of it we find in the Maine Farmer, whose opinions are not inferior, in standard value, to those of any agricultural paper in the Union:

"One of the best essays on wheat culture that we have ever seen, has lately appeared in the Michigan Farmer, from the pen of its zealous and talented editor, Warren Isham, Esq.

"It was written and submitted to the Trustees of the Michigan State Agricultural Society—they have a State Society in Michigan, though, as a State, they are much younger than we are—and they awarded to it the prize.

"Although it was written for the latitude of Michigan, and contains a few suggestions not strictly adapted to our region, it would nevertheless be a valuable document to scatter among our people, and if we only had an agricultural missionary tract-society, as we wish we had, we would recommend its publication and circulation in the tract form. As it is, we shall abstract a few portions of it for the benefit of our readers."

In Mr. Spafford's communication, in our last No., his thirty Vermont sheep are made to yield 197 lbs. of washed wool. Turn the figure 9 bottom upwards, and make a 6 of it, as he intended, and you have 167 lbs., or an average of



5½ lbs. to the fleece—quite an extraordinary yield. Twenty-five, instead of thirty-five years should have been stated as the length of time he has been engaged in sheep husbandry.

#### MR. PIERCE'S ADDRESS.

In the last Marshall Expounder appears the address of the Hon. J. D. Pierce, delivered before the Calhoun county Agricultural Society, a carefully prepared and able production. It does us good to see that the great principles embraced in our wheat essay are fully endorsed and ably defended, in this address.

We must say, however, that what he says in relation to the transmutation of wheat into chess, but furnishes an instance of the weakness of a superior mind, when wedded to a theory—all that he says upon the subject being foreign to the merits of the case. But as a whole, the address is excellent, and will do good service in the cause.

#### SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE IN A MONTH.

We shall only issue one more number of the Farmer previous to our embarking for Europe, and now *let us see* what our friends can do for us between this time and that, in the way of new subscribers and remittances—remittances, not only from new subscribers in advance—not only from old subscribers for the current year—but from *those in arrears* for the past—*let us see*.—Who that can induce his neighbor to subscribe, will not? Who that owes us, and can pay us, will not? We want all the evidences of your good will possible, to cheer us on our way, and nerve us for a vigorous and protracted correspondence.

*Encouraging to the friends of the cause.*—In no previous year have we had half as large an accession to our subscription list, as since the commencement of our present volume. And still the work goes bravely on—onward and onward may it go until the Farmer, in its monthly visits, shall find its way to every farm house, not only within our borders, but far, far beyond, to enlighten the ignorant, reclaim the froward, direct the inquiring, and add to the comfort and enjoyment of all, thus clothing our favored peninsula in all the beauties of a new creation.

☞ We are indebted to Messrs. Cass and Felch, of the U. S. Senate, and Messrs. Buell and Sprague, of the other House, for important documents.

#### TO OUR FRIENDS FROM OVER THE WATER.

Some of our subscribers, who came originally from England, Scotland, Ireland, &c., noticing our intention to visit those countries, have proposed to give us letters to their friends still residing there. This would be a great favor to us, as it would facilitate the accomplishment of the great object of our visit. We therefore propose that any and all who have friends either in any part of Great Britain, or in any of the countries on the continent, send us letters of introduction to them, if they think proper so to do. And it should be done with as little delay as possible, as we shall be on our way in a very few weeks.

*Something of a farmer*—D. G. Rose, Esq., of Laporte, Indiana, writes us to select and send him three straw cutters, each of which will cut fodder for twenty to twenty-five horses, to be used upon as many different farms of his, from which we infer that he works from 60 to 75 horses. Mr. R. takes four copies of the Michigan Farmer, which we suppose he distributes among his tenants.—He wants, also, ten pounds of ruta бага seed, for the coming season's use, which tells well for his good management as a cultivator of the soil.

He asks if we cannot visit that section before our departure for Europe. That will be impossible, but we will endeavor to do so as soon after our return as we can.

We take occasion here to express our obligations to Gen. Orr, of Laporte, to whom we sent a copy of the Michigan Farmer, unasked, and who, as a consequence, has sent us the names of 25 subscribers, with the money in advance.

☞ *Who is "O. Snow"?* Some postmasters seem to have very limited conceptions of our subscription list, taking it for granted that it is so small that we must know the whereabouts of all our subscribers, and that it is only necessary to give us the individual's name to furnish us a clue to his location. These persons might be surprised to be informed, that of the thousands upon our subscription list, we scarcely know the location of one in a hundred.

*To correspondents.*—Thanks to our friends for their numerous favors. Besides those with which our present number is so richly stored, we have quite a goodly pile on hand for the next, and this is just as we would have it. Among the contributors, is quite a phalanx who have now, for the first time, made their *debut* as authors. We trust their success will not only induce them to try again, but encourage others, also, to enter the lists.

**THE FARMER'S EVERY-DAY BOOK**, or Sketches of Social Life in the Country, with the popular elements of practical and theoretical agriculture, and twelve hundred laconics and apothems, relating to ethics, religion, and general literature; also five hundred receipts on Hygeian, domestic and rural economy: by the Rev. John L. Blake, D. D., author of a Family Encyclopedia of General Literature, and a general Biographical Dictionary: Published by Derby & Miller, Auburn, New York—654 pp. neatly bound, with gilt back. Price \$3.00.

This is the volume which was advertised in our January number, and we are happy to be able to announce to our readers that, upon perusal, it fully makes good the claim set up for it in said advertisement. Its great merit consists in the selection of topics fruitful in their practical bearings upon country life, and presenting them in a most popular and attractive form, thus blending amusement and instruction, in a most felicitous style of execution. 'In reading it, you are not conducted over a barren desert, but through green fields and along purling brooks, amid fruits and flowers, bleating flocks, lowing herds, and singing birds.

Farmers, if you want to get in love with your noble profession, and learn how to do every imaginable thing pertaining to it, in the very best manner, with all your gettings do not fail to get this book.

#### DEEP PLOWING AND EXHAUSTION OF THE SOIL.

There seems to be an erroneous impression upon the minds of some, in respect to the exhausting effect of deep plowing. That deep plowing and sub-soiling to the depth of two feet, will sooner exhaust the soil to *that depth*, than shallow plowing would, if no equivalent is returned to the soil, no man in his senses will deny. But these persons do not take into consideration that, upon the new system, something like an equivalent is returned to the soil by means of the clover crop. They furthermore overlook the fact, that the deeper the soil is loosened, the more effectually the process of decomposition and re-composition of the mineral elements of the subsoil, is carried on, by means of the free admission of air and heat with the rain water, which now so readily percolates it, so that the increased available supply, so far as most of the mineral elements are concerned, will be very likely to be more than sufficient to meet the increased drafts which are made upon them—and when it is considered, that the sub-soil, clear down to the cen-

tre of the earth, is made up almost entirely of mineral elements, it would seem to be sadly out of place to be indulging dismal forebodings of their exhaustion.

We shall take this subject up and sift it, hereafter.

#### MORE TRUTH THAN POETRY.

We apprehend that there is more truth than poetry in the remark of friend Sullivan, upon another page, in relation to the prejudice against agricultural papers to be met with in the west, when he ascribes it to the fact, that eastern agricultural papers, which are so admirably adapted to the state of things in their own latitude and longitude, but so totally unadapted to the circumstances and necessities of our farming population, have, in years past, been so freely circulated among us. A case in point upon this subject, came under our observation a moment ago. A farmer, of Wayne Co., being in our office, we asked him if he was a subscriber to the Mich. Farmer. He replied promptly, "No, and I don't want any more agricultural papers. I and my neighbors took the ———, from the State of New York, and we got enough of it." He went on to give the history and disastrous results of experiments they had been led into upon its recommendation, and from his account of the matter, we can scarcely wonder that they had imbibed a settled prejudice against everything of the kind, so totally unadapted were the directions given, to this longitude.

And yet, those papers may be made excellent *collateral* helps, used in subordination to a paper which is the product of our own soil, and of course contains the very elements adapted to its profitable cultivation.

#### ONCE PLOWING FOR WHEAT.

Those farmers who have never adopted the system of *deep* plowing and clovering, will be very likely to be *deeply* impressed with the idea that *once* plowing for wheat will never do. For instance, let a portion of a naked field be summer-fallowed, after the old fashion, and the other part be plowed but once, and that but a week or two before seeding, and the summer-fallowed portion will produce much the largest yield, and perhaps double the other portion. We have found it so in our own experience as a wheat-grower. But this bare, shallow business, proves nothing as to the results of once plowing, upon

the system of deep culture and clovering, the superiority of which over it, has been attested by the very best farmers in our country.

*Premium list deferred.*—Much against our will, the press of matter on our hands has crowded out the balance of the premium list, which we designed to give in this No. It will appear in our next.

#### A LOVELY FAMILY SCENE—MAKING CANDLES OF LARD.

For the Michigan Farmer.

HARRIS PRAIRIE, Ia., Feb., 1851.

Friend Isham:

In the progress of the seasons, as they pass, the savage as well as the sage, is led to contemplate the various attributes of the Creator. And in their magnificent circle, they are fitted to awaken, in succession, the loftiest sentiments which the heart of man can feel. The most joyful season of nature is fast approaching; however, let us not anticipate its coming, for winter has its comforts, too. Yes, even now, while I am penning these few lines, grim Boreas is whistling one of his shrillest tunes, and the netted frost work on the window panes tells plainly that Mr. Mercury is somewhere about zero.

Yet, all around me is happiness. The family circle numbers fourteen—not one idler is to be seen. The two eldest girls are eighteen, the other sixteen; all three have just put away their knitting, to aid the younger portion of the family for the morning lesson at school. The larger boys have filled the wood boxes, and poked the glowing embers, and are busy picking wool. The Youngest is watching the mother, as she spins, whilst the head of the family (who, by the way, is one of the richest men on the Prairie,) is busy, culling choice information from some of the best agricultural works of the day. I see your Farmer occupies a prominent place on his table; he is an amateur; and although what is styled in York State, a gentleman farmer, he does all his own carpentry, weaving, &c. His motto is, "a time and place for everything."

He has over five hundred acres of excellent land, three hundred and forty of which lie spread out, as a vast table, before the front door. It is in excellent order, and you will no doubt be surprised that he can raise the immense crops he does with only three hands. His orchard is the largest I know of in the country, and if required, I shall give you an account of his manner of drying fruit, and grafting, in my next.\*

He makes all his candles of hogs' lard—any kind, dirty or clean, may be used. The process is simple, and if not universally known, may prove of some benefit to the new farmer; it is as follows: He puts all the lard, say sufficient for five pounds of candles, in the smelter; after it attains the heat of about 200°, Fahrenheit, he

throws in 3 or 4 ounces of lime and about an ounce of aquefortis, and then moulds them. The lime purifies the grease and the aquefortis hardens it.

CINCINNATUS.

\* You are required.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

#### OAKLAND Co. AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the Oakland County Agricultural Society, held at Pontiac on the first Tuesday of January, 1851:

On motion, the report of the secretary was read and adopted.

The executive committee reported and awarded the following premiums on farms and field crops:

To Linus Cone, of Avon, for best improved farm, fifteen dollars; to Linus Cone, of Avon, for crop of winter wheat, eight dollars; to Nathaniel D. Bingham, of Brandon, for best potatoes, four dollars.

The following amendment to the constitution was adopted: That the constitution be so amended that the President and Recording Secretary be *ex officio* members of the executive committee, and that the same be amended by repealing that part which authorizes the electing of one person to the offices of treasurer and recording secretary. Also that the president shall preside at all meetings of the executive committee, and the secretary shall keep a record of their proceedings.

Linus Cone, of Avon, was declared elected president for the ensuing year.

The following persons were elected vice presidents for the ensuing year:

Calvin A. Green, Avon; Nathan Power, Farmington; Isaac J. Voorhies, Waterford; George Miller, Independence; N. D. Bingham, Brandon; John Chamberlain, Bloomfield; Samuel Rodgers, Novi; Clark Beardsley, Troy; Edmund Baughman, White Lake; David Chase, Royal Oak; Wm. M. Axford, Oakland; David Goss, Southfield; Eldridge D. Deming, Oxford; M. G. Irish, West Bloomfield; Benjamin Phelps, Pontiac; J. B. Simonson, Springfield; Amasa Andrews, Commerce; O. P. Davidson, Highland; H. W. Horton, Groveland; H. K. Foote, Milford; Delabar Burrows, Rose; J. Patterson, Holly; Seymour Arnold Avon; Elijah B. Clark, Orion; Samuel Seeley, Lyon.

Secretary of the society for the ensuing year, H. N. Howard.

A. W. Hovey, elected Treasurer.

Executive Committee: John Thomas, Oxford; Charles Baldwin, Avon; A. Whitehead, Waterford; James Bailey, Troy; Robert Garner, White Lake; John L. Brownell, Farmington; Henry Waldron, Pontiac; W. J. Henderson, Bloomfield; Asa B. Hadsell, do.

Corresponding Secretary, Wm. W. Phelps.

The meeting of the executive committee was fixed to be held on the 26th day of May, at ten o'clock A.M.



## THE FARMER AS HE SHOULD BE.

FROM A NEW SUBSCRIBER.

For the Michigan Farmer.

LAPHAMVILLE, Kent county, Mich. }

January 15th, 1851. }

Friend Isham:

(For I call those friends who are striving to do good to their fellow men, and to make the world better for their lives,) I have just received the January number of your Farmer, and must say I am quite well pleased with it. It really seems as though the farmers of Michigan should make their own farming paper one that should go a little ahead of everything else. It is in our midst, and surely should know best what our wants are, and what the wants of the soil we cultivate are. Nay, we should not run after eastern publications, until we have secured the regular receipt of our own paper. Then we ought to look after others, and as many as we feel our pockets will support. An agricultural paper never yet impoverished a tiller of the soil, unless he was too great a dunce to take any heed of its teachings. On the contrary, many a dollar has been caused to find the way to the purse of the thoughtful, practical reader and worker, through their agency.

I venture to say there is no other employment that has so much to do with scientific principles, as farming; and yet how sadly deficient in such knowledge is the great mass of us who attempt to cultivate the soil! The laws which govern the growth of vegetation, the means by which the seed springs into living, vegetable existence, gathering its sustenance from the principles in the soil and atmosphere—the growth, the flowering, fruiting, gathering and preserving—how little, indeed, do we understand these things! We plow the land, cast in the seed, harrow the dirt over it, see the blade come forth and from day to day increase, till at last it attains its maturity, when we cut it down, gather it into our barns, thresh it, eat or market it, and that is about all. We have gained no increase of knowledge. We know no more when we commence on the next round of the same toil, how to improve it, than we did before.

This is too often the case. Indeed, it is so universal that those whose minds are leading them continually forward, and making them better acquainted with the science of their calling, are rare exceptions. The tiller should be an educated man. I do not mean by this that he should be a college bred man, though a collegiate education would not, by any means, do him any harm, if he used it rightly. But he should have an agricultural education—one that should fit him fully for his employment, so that when he sowed wheat he should not expect to gather chess. He should fully understand the principles that govern soils, and their adaptedness to the several products of the farm. He should understand ve-

getable physiology, and the laws of plants; and the animal system and animal creation should claim a large share of his attention. But I might enumerate a great many things which it would be to his interest to be more or less versed in.

When these things shall be, then shall we see agriculture in a most proud position. The earth shall blossom and be fruitful as a garden, and man be a far nobler being, humanly speaking, than he now is. Is it not a work worth struggling for? Surely it is, and it should be the endeavor of every one wishing well to the world, to strive with his ability to bring about the desired result.

I am but a recent settler in this State. I was bred a farmer, but of late years have been engaged in other employments, but am returned again to the cultivation of the soil. I am one of those who wish to improve, and so my first act is to take your Farmer. Indeed I consider an agricultural paper as essential as a team or a plow. I do not content myself with one alone, either, although I am in poor circumstances.

If my cogitations are of any value for your columns, I will try and send you an article now and then.\*

Wishing you, my dear sir, all the prosperity that a kind Providence can send, I am

Yours sincerely, in the cause of

Progress and Improvement,

TIMOTHY E. WETMORE.

\* Write.—Ed.

The following is the first of a series of articles, which will be well worthy the attention of young men. May they profit by their perusal.

For the Michigan Farmer.

### TO YOUNG FARMERS....No.I.

Mr. Isham:

May I be permitted to visit the young farmers in this State, through the medium of your useful and well-conducted paper, and occasionally say a few kind words that I hope will be well received, and prove a benefit to them?

My present call will be occupied in discussing the employment of

#### RAINY DAYS.

Were there no rainy days, the farmer would work for nothing, at least in most parts of the world. How they manage in Egypt I cannot say, but suppose the overflowing of the Nile, and heavy dews, answer all the purposes of rain.

But what shall our boys and young men do when a rainy day comes? I will first tell you what you ought not to do, and then answer the question.

*Don't work in the rain.*—If your father does, he will be a decrepid old man, with a lame back and stiff knees, before he knows it. You will see, before I am done, that I am not pleading for laziness. But nothing is made by working in the

rain; if a hired man should offer to work in the rain, saying it did not hurt him, I would forbid it—I know better. My old neighbor, Col. B., when young, used to say he was “as tough as a pine knot, and he was not afraid of the rain.”—So he would split rails, haul manure, &c., day after day. He never took cold; he never had the pleurisy, or inflammation of the lungs. But before he was fifty his joints were stiff—the rheumatism kept him awake o’ nights, and he walked and worked like a man fifteen years older than he was. So you will be, if you do the same.—Ask your father to excuse you, in honesty and good faith, and he will do it.

*Don't go a hunting or fishing in the rain*—this is as bad as work. Rain is rain, whether you work or play; neither gun nor fishpole will keep you dry. On a *lowery* day, you had much better go into the open field and work, than dangle through the weeds and grass to fish, or bushes to hunt. There is no magic in play, to prevent the mischief that would follow work in like circumstances.

Now, unless you are in a profuse sweat, a dashing shower will do you no harm. A complete *ducking*, at Christmas, would do thousands good; it would give their blood a start, and operate like an electric shock. But it is the getting damp, and standing, or sitting, and working hour after hour, in wet clothing, with cold, wet feet, that does all the mischief—not *getting* wet, so much as remaining cold, damp, chilly. Remember this.

*Don't lounge at the store or shop*, and above all, at the *whiskey tavern*. If you have business at either place, that can best be done on a rainy day, *do it, and be off*. A store is the place for trade; a merchant wants customers, not loafers. A shop is the place for work; this is the mechanic's business. Just think how you would like to have your counter filled with lazy men's youngsters, instead of goods, smoking and regulating Congress, wasting their own time and spoiling your merchandise. These men should be charged 15 per cent. in addition, on their goods for dues for lodging and rent, and no credit given.

Just so with the mechanic. He wants your custom—good prompt pay, and room to work.—Get out of his way, then, and let him work.

*Don't spend your rainy days in swapping or trading*, or what is meaner, pretending to do it. Nine times out of ten, it is only an apology for loafing and talking. If you expect to prosper as a farmer, don't try to be a “sharp for a trade.”—Learn the price and quality of such articles as you will be likely to buy or sell, as early as you can. Always sell at a fair price, when offered, if you wish to sell at all—never wait for a high one. Always sell for cash, or sure pay; never sell at a high price on credit, and at the risk of losing the debt.

Always pay a fair price for what you really need; no farmer will prosper in making

it an object to purchase below it. Where you will save once, you will get cheated five times by trying it.

The whole art of learning to trade, may be gained without swapping colts or old watches.—You need spend none of your rainy days in such business. A good name for honest industry will go ten times as far as the reputation of being sharp. The first, like a good jack-knife, will answer every useful purpose, always ready, always effective. The last, like a fine pen-knife, will either break in a hard, knotty stick, or else cut your fingers in using it.

I say nothing about your spending your rainy days in the bar room. Such young men will not read the “Farmer.” They are “done over”—“gone geese”—“bound to be nobody” and nothing.

Yours truly, S. Y.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir: Enclosed I send you one dollar, for which please send me your invaluable paper, the Farmer, for the A.D. '51.

I am not a going to throw myself in as writer, at this time, but would beg leave to cater as a querist, if you see fit to let me—if not, take my money and send the paper.

As the time is near at hand for spring work, I would like to know the best *modus operandi* of using coarse barn-yard manure.\*

Also, the experimental practice in keeping our useful domestic animal, the horse, free from all kinds of Diseases, and how to doctor for each respective disease prevalent with them, viz: botts, cholic, distempers, &c. &c.† B. A. F.

\* This is a mooted question. Coarse, or what is called “long manure,” is said to be best upon heavy, clay soils, and rotted manure upon lighter soils, the rotting being more or less, as the soil is more or less light.—Ed.

† Some one, we think it was friend Greene, of Avon, not long since, promised to furnish something for the Farmer, in relation to this very matter—will he do it?—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

BATTLE CREEK, Jan. 25th, '51.

Mr. Isham:

As I have been a considerable sheep farmer in England, and am so now, I send you the following recipe, which I have found to work admirably in my experience:

When an ewe has a *young* lamb die, and you have a pair of twins, as soon as possible, take off the skin of the dead lamb and put it on a twin lamb, rubbing the head and rump of the live lamb all over with the blood of the dead one, and put the ewe and lamb together in a small place; if she is cross, tie her up, head and foot, and she will soon own it, and be kind to it. I never knew it to fail. N. A.

Our correspondent at Kalamazoo, will find all he needs to know about bees, in the series of articles we are now publishing, of which the following is the 4th, commencing with the November number—No. 11—of the last volume.

*For the Michigan Farmer.*

### ON BEES...No. 4.

#### THE HONEY BEE.

We have stated in a former article, that bees raise their young, and deposit pollen, or bread, in that portion of the hive where the greatest number of bees are lodged; there is very seldom, if any, exception to this. We therefore delay placing the caps (erroneously spelled cups, in a former article,) upon the hive, for two or three days, at which time they should have access to them. It will be seen that there is but little risk in giving them immediate access when the swarm is large, or except it is very small.

We have stated that they should be removed to the bee-house as soon as they have all gone into the new hive. They form habits very readily, and if suffered to remain at the place where they are hived any length of time, they will, after being removed to the bee-house, return to it, from the force of this habit, and will never again find the hive, but will perish.

There are several reasons for their swarming. The first is, the want of room in the old hive; this is always the cause of their first swarming, unless the old stock have lost their queen previous to their swarming, in which case the colony assumes the condition of a swarm from which a young swarm have already issued, and may swarm before the hive is full of comb or bees.

The old queen goes out with the new colony, leaving the old colony without a queen. She invariably leaves one or more litters of eggs, the bees possessing the faculty of converting these eggs into queens, or females, which practice they commence as soon as they discover their loss.—The eggs are laid in litters, about three times a week, and the bees, to make sure their success, commence their process of transmutation on the different litters at the same time, and if they are successful, and produce more than one queen, a fight ensues between the queens, as nature has implanted an implacable hatred between them—the working bees prevent a personal conflict, and as the two queens cannot, or will not, live together in the same hive, one of them sallies forth from the parent hive, and a portion of the working bees follow with her; this is the cause of the second swarm.

Again, if they have produced three queens from three different litters of eggs, as soon as the third queen is hatched another conflict ensues, and another colony departs from the mother swarm.—These litters having been laid within two or three days of each other, the third swarm may be expected two or three days from the second. The

second swarm may be expected about the seventeenth day from the first, it requiring about that length of time for the eggs to hatch.

It is frequently the case that on swarming second and third swarms, the young queen is unable to fly, having sallied out before she has acquired sufficient strength; in which case the young swarm will return to the parent hive after having discovered that their queen is not with them. She may often be found near the ground upon a twig, spire of grass, on the fence, or some other place, and usually in a small cluster of bees, perhaps the size of a hen's egg. She may be easily distinguished from the other bees by her appearance. A young one differs but little from other bees in color, though always a shade lighter, approaching to chestnut or mahogany—has the same number of wings and legs; she is somewhat larger and much longer; her wings are of the same size; she is very shy, avoiding discovery, and when discovered is almost always in motion. She may be taken in the hand without any fear of her stinging, as she never stings notwithstanding she is armed with that means of defence. When discovered, and unable to fly, she should be placed in the mother hive, if the young swarm have returned there. If, perchance, the young swarm have alighted, and been hived, the young queen should be placed with them; in case she be returned to the mother hive, she will obtain strength in two or three days, and perhaps in one, and again sally forth.

### ABOUT HORSES.

*For the Michigan Farmer.*

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir: In the August number of your paper, page 252, your worthy correspondent, Asa H. Otis, is desirous to know the "whys and wherefores" for men's opinions, with which I perfectly agree; and as the principal part of his communication had direct reference to my horse "Bucephalus," I feel at liberty to give my opinion in reference to him, as well as about horses generally, and will endeavor to give the "whys and wherefores."

The kind of horse which friend Otis says every farmer ought to have, weighing, in common good condition, 2,800 or 3,000 pounds the span, "better more than less," are exceedingly scarce. I have not seen a horse which would weigh 1500 pounds since I have been in Michigan, and I doubt whether there is such a horse in the State, "in common good condition."

I do not think a horse is in "common good condition," with a thickness of fat upon his ribs like a hog fit to be butchered, and that is what must make the weight, if any such should be found. Such horses cannot travel upon the roads, nor even draw a harrow upon plowed ground, equal to a horse about 15 1-2 hands high, weighing, "in common good condition," about 1200 lbs. If we plow so deep as to want horses of extra strength, (and which are not so good for all pur-



poses,) it would be good economy to put 3 horses to the plow, which would, at least, be as good as two of your correspondent's description. One of these would answer a good purpose in tending corn, when the others might be engaged at some other work, and it should be a mare to raise a colt, and thereby lessen the expense, or produce an income nearly equal to the expense of keeping the third horse. Farmers should keep mares for work. I find no difficulty in working them all the year, except for about ten days after foaling.

Were farmers enabled to keep horses expressly to plow and cart heavy loads, such as your correspondent describes might be tolerated, with one or more extra for traveling purposes, but as all of us farmers have considerable riding to do, from many causes, I will again ask, if it is not better to have such as I above recommend, than to keep all the year a pair of enormous horses to do a few days' extra plowing, and not only consume an extra quantity of food, but require unnecessary delay in traveling, which their great weight demands, or be injured by it if driven at an ordinary gait. Besides, circumstances often compel us to drive faster than an ordinary traveling gait; hence I say again, a horse of all work is the farmer's horse.

Horses of medium size, have always stood the test of long journeys, hard work, speed, and bottom, best; and the higher the blood, the better for me, in any kind of work. My best blood mares, have invariably endured the hardest and heaviest work best, and are the most tractable.

Old American Eclipse was a horse of medium size, being only 15 hands 1 inch high, well proportioned, but not heavy, and who would doubt that he would have been a good plow horse? The performance of his stock, not only as roadsters, but as ordinary working horses, are too highly valued as such, to need comment.

Again, if size is all, or absolutely necessary to strength, speed, or bottom, what, I would ask, enabled the notorious little mare, Trifle, (so called from her diminutive size,) to perform such prodigies of speed and bottom, carrying the heavy weight of an aged horse. The great fault with most small horses is, that they are so perfectly "dung-hill," that they have neither strength nor bottom, consequently cannot plow as friend Otis would have them.

Again, I would ask, if size is the all-necessary requisite, why do mules and asses exhibit such strength and power of endurance? The fact is, whether big or little, they must be not only of the right material, to be valuable, but rightly put together, and as our blood horses have, in almost every instance, descended from the Arabian blood, (Eclipse in particular,) their forms and material are of the right sort of stuff for all necessary purposes, when judiciously applied.

"The thorough bred horse exhibits a very superior animal organization, inasmuch as his bone is larger, and more solid, his tendon stronger, and much better defined, his muscle more firm

and more elastic; in fact, as his form and quality are so much superior, it results that he is much more active, much more fleet, and much more powerful than any other variety of the tribe."—So says an eminent writer.

"That 'blood will tell,' is a trite maxim no one will attempt to controvert. Blood alone gives form, such as descends to posterity; and form is superiority"—so says the book.

If farmers would have pretty large, well-formed mares, of good blood, and then breed from a medium-sized horse, of good blood, they would get those of good action, strength and bottom, and would, when taken to an eastern market, bring a high price.

As my horse was very accurately described in your May number, I deem it unnecessary to give his exact measurement in this communication. I have been desirous of testing his extra abilities, for the purpose of correcting a mistaken opinion that has been in circulation far and wide to his injury, to wit: that he is too small to breed from; and I would here not only distinctly state, that I am willing to test his speed and bottom, on a track on my farm, next September, three miles and repeat, carrying 150 pounds, against any seed horse now in this State; (and if any one is desirous of matching him they will please mention it in your paper, and address me at Schoolcraft as to the arrangement;) but I also challenge the State to produce ten colts of any one horse's get, to show against the same number, of my horse's get, as to beauty, size, and just formation of bone and sinew, and if inclined, will compete with them in speed and bottom.

Your worthy correspondent also told you as appears by your "Notes by the Way," in the February number, that there were always two sides to a question, and that three horses abreast, he thought, would turn as deep a furrow, and with as much ease, as three good yoke of oxen and a pair of horses in a string would.

Now I would like friend Otis to give me his "whys and wherefores" to his side of that question, and tell me by what rule of philosophy the third horse is equal to three good yoke of oxen? I would ask friend Otis another question, which will define the principle more readily perhaps: If five horses hitched to a wagon, single or in a string, one before the other, each occupying a space of ten feet, can draw a load of 7,500 lbs., how much can a sixth horse draw, being 10 feet farther from the load, or what is the difference between each horse in the draft?

According to his rule of reasoning, the hindmost horse can draw much the heaviest part of the load, and so down to the forward horse. If friend Otis answer that question, I can tell him that three horses hitched singly, or in a string one before the other, betwixt two strings of chains, can draw a heavier load than they can to be hitched three abreast, as he would have them to plow, and can give him the "why and wherefore" for it.

ANDREW Y. MOORE.

## Horticultural.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Editor:

When that article on fruit culture that appeared in the Jan. No. of the Farmer, was penned, it was expected that the directions given for grafting old orchards, would be considered by some as quite objectionable. But that part relating to transplanting fruit trees, was written simply to call the attention of those that were about to transplant trees, to the importance of the subject, and to show, by a single illustration, the results to be expected from following the two methods. It was supposed that what was there said about the growth of trees, after transplanting, was a truth long since established, and if questioned by any, that it would be by those who would take up a tree and re-set it with as little care as they would a post.

But by reading the last No. of the Farmer, I noticed that one of your correspondents, who is understood to be a practical fruit grower, considers what was supposed to be truth, to be "very questionable."

The writer tells us that he has had much experience, and that he has transplanted trees with the utmost care, and yet that he does "not remember of ever having noticed a tree that was thought to have grown as well as though it had never been removed." Now I cannot but think that my friend has not followed the rules laid down by Downing and Thomas, or those published in the Farmer by Dougall, Rolyneck, and others; if he had, the result would have been different.

To show that a tree will grow as well after being transplanted as it did before, if proper care was taken with it, I will make a few short quotations. J. J. Thomas, after giving directions for transplanting, says: "Young apple trees, as large as a riding stick, with holes thus filled seven feet in diameter, have borne a bushel of fruit each, the fifth summer." Horticulturist, in the last No. of the Farmer, says, "out of three hundred trees transplanted last fall and spring, but one died, and they made from one to two feet growth." Let me add a little to the above. There is now standing in our fruit garden, a pear tree that was set a year ago last spring; when set, it was about as large as one's finger, and about two feet high; it is now eight feet high, five inches in diameter, and the united length of all the branches of last season's growth, exceeds forty-nine feet.

But as was expected, the strongest objections are raised against that part which related to grafting old orchards, which your correspondent announces not only "objectionable," but "strange." When this article was commenced, I had intended to have given a statement of facts which have been gathered from a somewhat extensive practice of fifteen seasons, which I believe would have amounted to proof on this point, that could not

have been gainsaid or resisted. But the limits of this article will not now permit.

I will, therefore, only remark at this time, that the subject is not well understood, and that the strong prejudices that exist against the method recommended, exist in the minds of those who have had little or no experience, or those that have not given the subject a careful and thorough examination. Consequently, all the failures that have been noticed, have been attributed to removing too much of the top at one time, whereas they should have been attributed to other causes. The cause of all the failures that I ever noticed, if the operation of grafting was skilfully performed, was that the tree was unthrifty, or diseased, and the scions small, weakly, or of slow-growing kinds, or that the tree did not receive the proper after-treatment.

If my friend will come into this neighborhood, I pledge myself to prove, not only that the causes assigned above are the true causes, but that the rules recommended for grafting, if strictly followed, and the trees receive the proper after-treatment, will produce thrifty, vigorous trees, that will come into bearing the second, third, or fourth year, according to the varieties.

As the results of any particular method are the best testimony that can be produced, I will compare notes with your correspondent, or any other person in this State having the same number of trees, changed by the method he recommends, within the same length of time, as to the amount and value of fruit produced, notwithstanding some of my trees have been changed, after coming into bearing, by the removal of the entire top three times within fifteen years.

LINUS CONE.

Troy, Feb. 14.

For the Michigan Farmer.

### TO PREVENT GRAPE VINES BLEEDING

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir: I wish through the Farmer to answer the question often asked, "how to stop vines bleeding, when cut or broken?"—With me, the following plan has succeeded in nine cases out of ten; which is, to sharpen the end of the vine, when cut or broken off, and insert it into a potato so far that the wounded part will be entirely within the potato. It is equally successful when the roots have been broken or cut by transplanting.

It is better to prune vines in the fall, but where it has been delayed until the sap flows, it can be done as late as April or May, by adopting the above plan. I am aware that many have tried it to advantage, but that all your readers have, who have vines, is not to be expected.

S. B. NOBLE.

Ann Arbor Garden, Feb. 8, '51.

For the Michigan Farmer.

## DRYING FRUIT.

CLINTON, Feb. 10th, 1851.

Mr. Editor:

In the Nov. No. (I think) of the Michigan Farmer, there was a plan of drying apples, practiced in Texas, but the writer thought it not practicable for this latitude. Reading that article induced me to give the readers of the Farmer a plan which my wife has adopted for several years:

Take common carpet yarn, warp it for two or three yards' length, just as you choose; use a five or six quarters reed; in drawing through the reed use every third or fourth space between the teeth of it; to insure the strength, double your thread occasionally, and in weaving, beat two or three threads closely together, and then more open, alternately; when taken from the loom, fasten it to a light frame, and it is ready for use.

This can be used with equal advantage out of doors or in the house; large families might have two or three of these dryers. The advantages claimed are these: A more speedy drying, no time spent in stringing, and a whiter and more valuable article. If the apples are sliced before placing them on the canvass, they are fairer and better flavored. The twine that an ordinary family would use in a season, stringing apples, would make one of these canvass dryers.

But perhaps some of my lady readers may make an objection—they have no loom—no one in the neighborhood has, &c. Then let them knit one. Any lady that can knit netting for a stand, or table cloth, can knit one in a day or two, and these are preferable to those that are woven.

As all kitchens have hooks overhead for the support of articles, these apple nets may be suspended entirely out of the way; and, moreover, that being the warmest part of the room, fruit dries more rapidly there.

Yours, &amp;c.,

R. RANDALL, JR.

**COMPOST FOR FRUIT TREES.**—Mr. Downing gives it as his opinion that the best compost, adapted for general use, with fruit trees, is swamp muck, mixed with wood ashes, at the rate of five bushels of fresh ashes, or twice that quantity of leached ashes to a wagon load. This compost he would modify as follows, to adapt it to the different varieties of fruit trees: *Apple*—To every cart load of muck and lime mixture, after it has lain a fortnight, add 2 bushels of air-slacked lime. *Pear*—To every cart load of the muck and ashes mixture, add a bushel of ground or dissolved bones, and 2 bushels of leached ashes. *Plum*—To every cart load of the muck and ashes mixture, add half a bushel of lime, half a bushel of ashes, and a peck of salt. *Grape Vines*—To every cart load of the muck and ashes mixture, add a bushel of lime, a bushel of ashes, and a half bushel of gypsum or plaster.—*Maine Farmer.*

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Isham:

Will you say to those readers of your paper who wish to avail themselves of the opportunity of obtaining seeds of the sweet pumpkin, that they can obtain them at the Detroit seed store of F. F. Parker & Brother, 81 Woodward avenue—also at Maynards', Ann Arbor, where they can be had in small quantities. Said seed were selected from the same field where those pumpkins grew which received the premium at the last State Fair. They also took the premium at the Washtenaw county fair.

They are a southern variety; the color is dark green, or black, when ripe, with the exception of the bottom that lays on the ground, that is deep yellow. They are generally deep-meated, tight grained, and sweet enough for family use without sweetening, and just as easy to cultivate as any other variety. Stock of all kinds give evidence of their superiority, by greedily devouring and selecting the sweet from the common varieties. Care should be taken that the best be selected to save seeds from; they are very apt to amalgamate with other varieties, if planted with or near by them.

Yours, &amp;c.

JACOB PERKINS.

York, Jan. 31, 1851.

## GOOD ADVICE.

There is much comprehended in the following brief summary of advice:

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Editor:

I enclose you one dollar, in payment of a year's subscription. Pardon my delay, you deserve not this neglect. I have read no better publication of the kind; to its columns there are many instructive contributors, and the knowledge that may be gained therefrom can scarcely be computed. It cannot be expected that any one man can know all that is necessary for successful operations in agriculture.

All will admit that a proper education to the farmer, is important, in view of the amount of labor that has been thrown away by those who are ignorant of the proper mode of cultivating the earth. What a scanty return have the majority of agriculturists received for their toil, and that, too, from the most fertile soils! Many of our farmers attempt to cultivate more land than they are prepared to cultivate well, and the consequence is, half crops and a neglect of proper improvements. They should keep good fences, good buildings, good cattle and horses, sow good seed and at the proper time, plow deep, according to the nature of their soil, and never put off till to-morrow that which ought and can be done to-day. They should not be backward in giving their children at least a good common school education, and above all, they should not neglect to pay the printer.

Yours etc.

E. STRONG.\*

Centreville, Feb. 3d, 1851.

\* Give us some of your experience.—Ed.



## A FIRST EFFORT.

*For the Michigan Farmer.*

Mr. Editor:

I have at times, when reading your paper, been almost persuaded to become a contributor to its columns. But what can I do to profit your numerous readers?—no scholar, a mere bungler, never having attempted to do such a thing in my life. And then, again, how much vexation it must give you, how much time it will cost you, to mend up my barks, and prepare the thing fit to be seen in the Farmer, for I am more accustomed to plowing than writing. But if you will do it, I will at some future time tell you my way of mending barks, when plowing, and write occasionally, to boot.

\*I should like to say something about sheep, and that too, for the benefit of those who have no 500, nor 300, nor 100, nor even 25 dollars to spare, wherewith to buy the fine French merinoes, or any other of the first class of the fine woolled breeds, or the famous Leicester, or Lincoln, or the stately Cotswold, or the beautiful Southdown—all good, very good, and I rejoice to see them multiplying and spreading in our land; success to them, and their owners, too.—But what shall we poor ones do? To buy those fine animals, at the present prices, is entirely out of the question, and to do entirely without anything in the shape of sheep, will never do. To buy all our cloth, our yarn, our tallow, and do without mutton in the bargain, is too much—a burden too grievous to be borne.

Can't you, friend Isham, do something for us? I have been hunting the Farmer over and over, again and again, to see if you, or some of your numerous correspondents had not said something encouraging, on which we poor fellows might hang a hope. But alas! no such thing is found—our case is indeed a forlorn one. Is hope then, clean gone forever? Verily not; there is yet hope in our case, and that hope rests, at present, on the poor man's sheep. I think I can see a few glimmering rays of light and hope shooting forth from that quarter, notwithstanding they are so much hid from sight by those 12, 15, 18 and 25 pound fleeces, which attract so much admiration and praise, and so justly, too. But one says, whose flock has been so far outdone and eclipsed by those 18 pounders, that he cannot see anything good or encouraging in the poor creatures; "is there indeed a breed of sheep that promise profit to their owners, which are within our reach, and that we can call our own? They must be a very new breed, indeed." No, not exactly, they are rather an ancient breed. "Pshaw! there must be some mistake in the matter, or why have I not made this important discovery myself?"

Why? a very good reason why—

Because you've too much wool in your eye!

Now, Mr. Editor, when I sat down to write my design was merely to give a short sketch of

the life and death of a pet lamb, together with some of the available and real profits of Pink, for that was the pet's name; but it has took so long to get up to it, that I will defer that matter for my second effort.

Yours respectfully,

UNCLE JOHN.\*

\* A very good beginning, Uncle John.—Ed.

## SHEEP SLAUGHTER.

*For the Michigan Farmer.*

Mr. Editor:

In one of the back numbers of the Farmer, Mr. Spafford, of Manchester, if I recollect right, inquired about purchasing sheep. Not having his article before me I may not be able to answer it as he could wish, and it was out of my power to answer it sooner.

Those who have incurred the expense of keeping their sheep so far through the winter, will hardly dispose of them till after shearing. I went to Ann Arbor to-day, for the express purpose of ascertaining, or to get the best data I could, of the number of sheep slaughtered in this county. I called upon two of the pelt dealers, and one firm told me they had purchased 6,000, and another 3,000 pelts this season. How many pelts have been bought and sold in the other villages, I have no means of ascertaining at present. I presume, from the best information I can get, that from 10 to 12,000 sheep have been slaughtered in Washtenaw the past season, principally for their hides and tallow. Many of the pelts I saw were fine woolled.

One of my neighbors had a considerable of a flock to dispose of; he advertised them in the Ann Arbor papers, for sale at auction, but none came to purchase. He afterwards told me he meant to slaughter them for the pelts and tallow. He winters 270. When farmers get overstocked with sheep, they must dispose of them the best way they can.

I regret that Mr. Spafford could not have supplied himself with sheep, out of the thousands slaughtered for their pelts and tallow.

W. A.

## INQUIRY TO BE ANSWERED.

*For the Michigan Farmer.*

Friend Isham:

Will you, or some of your correspondents, inform me whether oak, (and which variety,) sassafras, or red elm, will be the most durable for fence posts?

Enclosed you will find \$2, for this and the next volume (new series) of the Farmer. I would not be deprived of it for almost any sum, while it continues as entertaining and instructive as at present.

Yours, &c.

J. C. ALLEN.

Adamsville, Cass Co., Jan. 25, '51.

For the Michigan Farmer.

### MICHIGAN STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Executive Committee of the Michigan State Agricultural Society, have the honor to acknowledge the receipt from the American Institute, New York, through its President, Gen. James Tallmadge, of a valuable box of books, to wit:

Journal of the American Institute, vols. 1, 2, 3, and 4, commencing A.D. 1835, and continuing to 1850; Transactions of the American Institute for 1842, '43, '45, '46, '47, '48 and '49; copies of the Address delivered at the opening of the twenty-second annual fair of the American Institute, by Hon. H. Meigs, at Castle Garden, October, 1849; copies of Address delivered at Castle Garden, during the twenty-second annual fair of the American Institute, by James G. Crane, Esq., October, 1849; copies of Address delivered at Castle Garden, during the twenty-second annual fair of the American Institute, by Thomas Antisell, M.D., October, 1849; copies of address on the progress and improvements that have been made in the Mechanic Arts, delivered at Castle Garden on the 9th of October, 1849, by Rev. John Alburtis, editor of the "Farmer & Mechanic," of New York; copies of anniversary address before the American Institute of the city of New York, at the Tabernacle, on the 11th day of October, 1849, by Hon. Levi Woodbury, of New Hampshire; copies of an address on the Patent Laws, before the American Institute, in Castle Garden, at its twenty-second annual fair, October 1849, by George Gifford, Esq., of New York; address delivered at the twenty-third annual fair of the American Institute, by Hon. Henry Meigs, at Castle Garden, October, 1850; copy of the anniversary address delivered before the American Institute, at the Broadway Tabernacle, October 11th, 1850, by Samuel Greene Arnold, Esq. of Providence, Rhode Island; copy of address of Hon. Henry W. Hilliard, of Alabama, before the American Institute, delivered at Castle Garden, during the twenty-third annual fair, October 14, 1850, with some remarks by Gen. Tallmadge, President of the Institute; copy of address delivered at the close of the twenty-third annual fair of the American Institute, on awarding the premiums, by James Tallmadge, LL. D., President of the Institute, at Castle Garden, October 23d, 1850; catalogue of the nursery-ground of La Saussaye, by J. G. Croux, near Villejuif, (department of the Seine,) France.

From Dr. H. Wheatland; Secretary, report of the Horticultural exhibition, held in Salem, Mass., under the direction of the Essex Institute, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 25th and 26th, 1850.

The Journal of the New York State Agricultural Society, published monthly, is received regularly from B. P. Johnson, Esq. Secretary.

The Wool Grower, published monthly, at Buffalo, N. Y., is received regularly from the publisher, T. C. Peters, Esq. This is a valuable paper, and should be in the hands of every wool grower.

These donations are considered as very valuable acquisitions to the Society's library. Gen. Tallmadge, in a letter to Grove Spencer, Esq., a member of the executive committee of the Michigan State Agricultural Society, relative to the books, says: "Will you do me the favor to present me to the Michigan State Agricultural Society, respectfully, and with assurance of our best wishes for their success and prosperity. The American Institute, with joy, will hail them as fellow-laborers in the field."

J. C. HOLMES,

Sec'y Mich. State Ag. Soc'y.

Detroit, 4th Feb., 1851.

For the Michigan Farmer.

### DELINQUENTS.

Friend Isham:

I am astonished that you should be compelled to call on delinquents again. I thought there was more *honor* in the agricultural community than to stand the second shot; but it seems that some have more courage than honor, for they can stand *three* shots, without winking.

Now, my brother farmers, do not again compel the editor of the Farmer to run off the track to look after the necessary means to carry on his labors in our behalf. Has he not labored faithfully for our interest? Has not the Farmer been not only enlarged, but greatly improved? Now it requires incessant toil and continual expense to carry it on—the paper, the ink, the printing, all cash articles, *and we must sustain it*. What makes the case more provoking is, that they who are most in arrears are the first to complain of the character of the paper, of the editor, and everything else, without contributing one iota to make the paper interesting, to assist the editor in making it so, or helping (through the Farmer) the ignorant public to any of the wisdom which they imagine they possess, far in advance of any book farmer.

I hope there will be no more necessity for reminding, coaxing, or flattering *delinquents*. It must be as unpleasant to the editor as it is unwelcome to them, and he would never *do it* if you would step to the "captain's office" and

PAY UP.

Feb. 7th, 1851.

For the Michigan Farmer,

Mr. Isham:

I should be glad to know from you, or any of your correspondents, which is the best kind of corn to sow for fodder, and how much seed to the acre?\*

J. C.

\* Will some one answer this question?—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

## HOW CAN WE REACH "THEM?"

Mr. Editor:

How can we reach those farmers who know more about farming than you, Mr. Editor, and all your correspondents can tell them? Ask them to subscribe for an agricultural paper, and they will tell you that "to read them papers, and practice what they recommend, is enough to 'swamp' any farmer in the State." Now this, unfortunately, shows how well these men are satisfied with themselves and their mode of farming; they think that it is throwing away both money and time, to take and read "them papers;" they say they are made up by Editors and fancy farmers, who neither work nor know anything about farming.

Those who read a little and think a little, know there is some mistake about this, and we think reading injures no man who can discriminate.—We do not wish every farmer to practice every thing he finds recommended in the agricultural papers—all have not the capital to enable them to make the experiments, and therefore they should distinguish between that which would be advantageous and disadvantageous to them.

But we want every farmer to read every day, even if it is but fifteen minutes after dinner, and the same after the labors of the day are over.—Resolve, then, all you non-reading farmers, to read half an hour every day, for three months, and my word for it, you will soon think that that is too little, and it will not be long before you will be surprised to find yourselves reading an hour every evening, and two hours during the long winter evenings.

Every farmer should take and read attentively at least one agricultural paper, and, if he can afford it, two or three; and then if he can throw in one or two miscellaneous papers, so much the better. Farmers do not hold that influence in society which they should do, merely because they read so little; and so long as that is the case they will look up to others. Is it not a burning shame, that whenever we want an address before an agricultural society, we have to look to some one besides a farmer to deliver it? This will always be the case so long as we do not read more and think more.

And why is it that so many farmers think they have no time to read? Shall I tell you? Having seen the thing so often, I can tell you how it is. Mr. A. lives some 5 or 6 miles from the village, and as it is a little rainy, he thinks he has some business in town, so he "gets up" his team and starts off; Mr. B., his next neighbor, seeing him coming along, looks up at the clouds, and says to himself, "well, I believe I'll go to the village too;" so he gets into Mr. A's waggon. They next take up Mr. C. and Mr. D., and so on until the waggon is full—all going to the village because it is a little rainy, or stormy, if it happens to be in the winter. When they arrive at the

village, one buys a little coffee, another a little tea, a third a little tobacco; and the rest went down because they had "a chance" to go, and dip into politics—discuss abolitionism and the fugitive slave law.

Now these are just the men who will tell you that they would like to take a paper, but that they are too poor! Yes, Mr. Editor, and that is just the way to remain poor, and ignorant, and to bring up a brood just like 'em.

How, then, can we reach them? I wish you, or some of your numerous correspondents would tell us. I am not a Yankee, but if I were I would "guess" that something could be done by having an agricultural society in every county, and a farmers' club in every township, where the farmers could meet as often as once a month, and interchange views and opinions; and perhaps we might get some of these "let-well-enough-alone" farmers to come and hear talking, and perhaps, after a while, to read a little.

A few words more, and I am done. I would advise all farmers to read aloud, during the evening, for the benefit of their wives and children—it will do them no harm.

A SUBSCRIBER.\*

Calhoun county, Jan. 1851.

\* We would like to have "A Subscriber" take his place among our regular correspondents.—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

## HEDGES—INQUIRIES.

Mr. Isham:

I have been much interested in the articles which have recently appeared in the Farmer, respecting hedges, as I think them the cheapest, most durable, and most ornamental of all fences.

As to the Osage Orange, I have doubts as to whether it is hardy in this latitude. If "J. Kramer," or any of your readers, have tried it in this State, I should like to know the result, with information relative to its sale, &c. I have read of its being "hardy as far north as Pennsylvania," "not adapted to our climate north of the Delaware," and as having been "fairly tried by Mr. Cushing, near Boston, and 'found wanting' in hardiness to resist the severe cold of that latitude."

The Genesee Farmer, for April last, says:

"The Osage Orange, we fear, will not prove hardy enough for the northern States. It is a southern tree, and grows vigorous until late in fall. The young shoots scarcely ever escape being killed a foot of their length. In N. J., Del., and most of Penn., a great portion of the western, all the southern and south-western States, it will, no doubt, answer well."

It may be that "Nature has supplied our Peninsula with an abundance of wood, of very choice kinds and qualities," in the vicinity of "J.S.C." but hereabouts rails cannot be bought for less than \$2 per hundred, and it costs at least as much



more to draw them, so that a substitute is much needed. What the hedges of which he speaks, "near the city of N. Y." were made of, I cannot imagine, as I never heard such objections made to common hedges.

There are many in this State who could tell us "how to begin," as well as the best hedgers in England—men who have planted, nursed, and trimmed many a hedge—and to them I appeal for information, which I have no doubt would be gladly published in the Farmer.

I am perfectly willing to tell all I know, for the benefit of others, knowing that by so doing I do not in the least subtract from my own little stock of knowledge.

In 1841, many of the pieces of "commons" in the neighborhood where I then lived, (in England,) were enclosed, and I had a good chance to see "how to begin" to make a hedge. A ditch was first dug, and the dirt thrown on one side, to form a bank, (which in this country would be unnecessary and improper.) On this bank the young "frith," or hedge plants, were planted.—They were of one year's growth, and were cut off a few inches above the ground. Soon after they were planted I came to Michigan, and saw no more of them until the winter of '47 and '48, when I visited England, and found the tiny plants transformed into substantial and beautiful hedges. Some of them had been allowed to grow several years undisturbed, and were then "plushed," or "laid down." The manner of doing this, as I have often seen it done, is as follows: The growing thorns are cut half or two-thirds through, a few inches from the ground; they are then bent down, (the heads all leaning one way,) and are secured by crothed stakes. Treated in this way, the thorn and stumps throw up a great number of shoots, which form, in two or three years, a substantial fence.

There is truly a great difference in hedge plants, and experiments must be made, if they have not been, to find out which is the best for this climate. It requires something which grows bushy, sprouts freely when cut, is thorny, and perfectly hardy. I have seen maple, ash, oak, and many other kinds of shrubs in the old hedges of England, such as is described in the extract made by "J. S. C."—Now, however, hawthorn, sloe and holly, are principally used, and these scarcely ever exceed three or four feet in thickness at the base, even when left untrimmed.

I believe the best material we have in this State is the native thorn, the wild plum, and the crab apple. All these, I think, will answer the purpose well, and I have about a peck of seeds of the two former in a "rot heap," with which to make a beginning.

Can the thorn seeds be made to grow in less than two years? If so, how? *Cuttings* of the thorn will grow in England—will they here? Is there any wire fence in this State? How is it made, and what did it cost?

Answers to these queries, or any other infor-

mation respecting fence-making, will be thankfully received by

Yours respectfully,

J. S.

Ceresco, Feb. 1851.

### WATERING FARM STOCK, AND IRRIGATION.

As I know there are extensive tracts of good farming lands in Michigan, and generally in the region of the great lakes, where the small fields of the farmer are not all supplied with water at all seasons, for stock, and also that, many times, the surface of the cultivated farms is liable to suffer from drouth, I have been induced to seek a remedy for the great inconvenience of want of good water on the surface at some seasons of the year. Especially I know that the grass crop would be greatly benefited in dry times—and there are some such every year—by irrigation.

Now, as most of your level grass lands, and of excellent quality too for grazing, have durable, good water not far below the surface, when the surface itself is very dry, it does appear to me that water can be raised to run over and irrigate the surface, so as to greatly increase the annual product, and cheer the hearts and comfort the stomachs of both man and beast, and mayhap increase the health of both, and at a small expense too. My plan is—and I have long meditated on it—that there is, almost every day, wind sufficient for every purpose of irrigation, and that, for a very small outlay, it may be effectually used for that purpose.

There is no doubt, indeed, but the wind may be so applied, but the great object should be, that it may be done by some simple and cheap method, so that every farmer may be enabled to use it. It is believed that the wind wheel may be made to operate directly on the common pump, or on the endless chain pump, so as to cause a steady stream of water to flow on the surface, at a very small expense, sufficient for every farm purpose. It is hoped that the Michigan Farmer, and other agricultural papers, will call the attention of their readers to this subject, and that some person or persons, more ingenious indeed than the writer claims to be, will furnish the public, and the patent office too, if they please, with a model machine, that shall be found to answer the object as here suggested. It is known that there is in this region a vast area of moist and level land, rich indeed, and of the best quality for raising stock for the dairy, that has not yet been brought under cultivation, the value of which would be greatly enhanced were durable water flowing on its surface, as it might be made to be by this means. The object is worth an effort, and that it will succeed I can scarcely doubt.—*Detroit Free Press.*

Lodi, Jan. 26, 1851.

Editors of the Free Press:

Sirs: In one of your papers I discovered that some man, the initials of

whose name I have forgotten, wished some one would invent a machine for watering stock, and for the irrigation of dry land in dry weather. I wish to say to him, if he will take the trouble of coming to my house, on Lodi Plains, in Washtenaw county, he can see one of those machines in successful operation, propelled by the wind.

J. LOWRY.

For the Michigan Farmer.

#### INFORMATION ASKED.

EMMETT, Cal. Co., Jan. 20th, 1851.

Mr. Isham:

Dear Sir: Enclosed is two dollars, which you will please place to my credit.

I see advertised in your last number, Wm. Crousdale's patent Seed Drill, appended to the plow. I think from the description that it will meet the wants of the farmer perfectly, being a labor-saving machine, for drilling in wheat and planting corn, at a low price, so that all may be benefitted by the invention.

Are they kept for sale in this State? Please to inform us in your next number, if you can.\*

Dr. R. T. Baldwin has recently made known the result of several years' investigation and experiments upon manures, and various ways of fertilizing land. He states that the best and speediest way to fertilize any soil, is to cover over with straw, bushes, or any raw material, so as to completely shade it. The surface of the earth thus being made cool, dark, damp, and close, is said soon to undergo a chemical process like putrefaction, and become highly fertilized.

This plan of fertilizing, he says, may be applied with success to any soil whatever, no matter how poor, and the result will be astonishing.

Has any of the numerous readers of the Farmer had any experience in Mr. Baldwin's mode of fertilizing soil? If so, we hope they will let the light of their experience shine forth in the pages of your valuable paper, that others may thereby be benefitted.†

Very respectfully yours,

WM. E. SAWYER.

\* They are not for sale here at present, but will be in the course of next season.—Ed.

† That there is something in this matter deserving the attention of our farmers, we have no doubt. We have met with those in our travels who have satisfied themselves upon the subject by experiment. Who does not know that the soil under buildings becomes fertilized to such a degree that it makes good manure?—Ed.

For the Michigan Farmer.

GRAND RAPIDS, Jan. '51.

Mr. Isham:

Mr. S.—is now on a new farm, and is desirous of doing things up scientifically. He wants to know, through the Farmer, the best

mode of fitting up a sugar establishment, as he has a fine bush on his place. He thinks there may be some in the State, who would be willing to give the desired information.\*

Yours truly,

GEO. LUTHER.

\* Will some one versed in the matter reply? —Ed.

#### A GOOD SUGGESTION.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Isham:

If your correspondents, in writing about good sheep and large fleeces, would tell whether the latter are washed or not, your readers would the better know which was the best; and as most men that have good sheep are in the practice of raising bucks, which are much wanted in many parts of the State, if they would state the breed, average weight of fleece, and at what price they will sell, it would help a man very much about purchasing.

Perhaps it would be considered rather an indirect way of advertising. If so, let every man who writes a communication of this kind, and by this means is benefitted by it, procure a club of subscribers for the Farmer, and it will be a mutual benefit to all.

I hope to hear from the sheep breeders of Michigan soon, as I am free to confess that I am severely attacked with the sheep fever, and am anxious to procure the best my means will admit.

Respectfully yours,

B. PECKHAM.

#### MORE ENDORSEMENTS.

For the Michigan Farmer.

ADRIAN, 29th Jan., '51.

Bro. Isham:

Dear Sir: I thank you for sending me the Jan. and Feb. Nos. of the Farmer.—Enclosed find a dollar for my subscription for 1851.

Your premium essay, I think, will do a *great deal of good*. The summer-fallow system has had a long life—some 3,000 years at least—and probably has some reasons in its favor that neither you nor I can understand; yet I coincide with you in the opinion that one good deep turning under of a clover ley, is the best mode of growing wheat in this State. The same remark may also, I think, be truly made as to corn. In the latter case I would plow in the fall—never omitting, either for corn or wheat, to pulverize the surface soil very thoroughly, with cultivator or harrow.

Yours,

J. W. SCOTT.

For the Michigan Farmer.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 12, '51.

Mr. Isham:

A friend of mine from the State of New York, recommends a wheel cultivator for my soil. I should like to have something about

them published in the Farmer—which is the best kind, &c.

Yours, &c.,  
H. HOPKINS.\*

\* Will some one answer?—Ed.

### RECEIPTS for the Michigan Farmer, from Jan. 22, to Feb. 22, 1851.

HJWing 23; A G Murray, 4; E Tanner, 1; Dr Gilbert, 1; D Aldrich, 4; S H Murray, 1; S Newell, 2; H Valland, 2; J A Austin, 1; C Betts, 4; L Grant, 1; H Brown 1; W E Sawyer, 1; E Harter, 4; G Luther, 6; J C Rockafellow, 1; D Peebles 1 50; R Crouse 1; W A Buckland, 4; J N Young, 1; A G Hunter, 1; S Blodget, 1; 7 30; J M Lamb, 2; L Walker 9 75; C N Beecher, 1; Wm Craig 3; F W Chaffee 4; E P Harris, 1; J A Crawford 2 25; M Aimore 1; State Ag. Society 2 50; A S Warren 1; B Pixley 1; P R Adams 1; D Bates 1; D Cowen 5; B Davis 2; J Brown 9; J Hart 1; D Cook 1; Wm Bradford 1; H Emery 15; S Whitney 1; F Lumbard 1; W H Hicks 1; C Coder 1; J A Sheldon 4; S Mewinger 1; A H Green 6 25; D Hicks 1; J C Kinne 2; A J Goodrich 1; E Daniels 1; J W Scott, 1; E Curtis, 1; 3 50; Z C Colvin 1; A E Leve 1; W D Williams 1; J S Buck 1; S Valentine 2; S Siles 1; J C Allen 2; A Wait 1; M Norris 1; B F Hibbard 1; O Baker 1; C Torrey 4 40; F M Drake 1; Cowan 2 25; C Coggeshall 1; O H'ee 1; P Shaefer 1; C L Miller 1; G S Wright 3 75; T F Gerls 2; J Perkins 1; N Fullington 1; J Stone 1; J T Comstock 1; H Bradley 1; Dr Mathew 2; B Pierson 2 40; S W Bowers 1; C N Beecher 1; J Anderson 1; B Peckham 1; G S Wright, 75c; J Whitman, jr. 1; I Smith 1; G Malcolm 1; M M Wells 2; N C Alvord 1; P Cruice 2; E Strong 1; J E Kelsey 1; C L Miller 1; G Forley 1; A Y M ore 5; H Voorhies 1; B F Fry 1 60; H Brown 1; C Prentice 4; S Hawkins 1; E H Bristol 1; L L Treat 1; G E Pomeroy 3; A U Sutton 3; I Rider 3 25; C Ellis 1; H Beardslee 1; B C Buck 1; G W Osborn 4; N Brown 1; A Mead 1; R S Gage 2; G Williams 2; H F Shepherd 1 75; E G Langdon 1 60; J R Jeffrey 1; A Haynes 1; B Davis 2 10; A Deuser 1; R P Mason 1; H M Peck 5; J Churchill 1; H C Judd 1; R P Clark 1; D B Brown 1 25; E P Benson 16 50; W Beedle 1; D E Deming 3; Wm Allen 3; C Van Keuren 1; N H Kneeland 1; J Gage 4; L H Stewart 1; W Parker 2; L Foot 1; S W Worden 1 25; W H Ramsdell 1; A J Goodrich 1; S T Brook 1; G Tripp 1; P B Hall 2; N Hopkins 1; A W Pierce 1; S N Warren 1; S P B Hall 2; N Hopson 1; J Kirgley 2; J A Crawford 1 60; T Flynn 1; W Hemingway 1; R E Towbridge 4; T Block 1; L Cone 1 40; E Macomber 1; N Sheldon 1; C L Miller 1; W E Conn 6 25; R S Gage 2; G Gale 1; G Gibson 1; W Stanley 1; N T Taylor 2; J G Welch 1; R P Torbert 1; L Stinson 4; J M Lamb 2; J Flower 4; S P Gregg 1; S S Bowen 1; W Jackson 2; L H Merrick 1; R W Cole 1; ... Burnham 3; G M Bewick 1; C Ward 7 50; P Miller 1 5 35; H Hinman 2; R S Gage 1; W Root 10 25; H C Wells 1; G W Lee 1; W O Austin 2; G Daniels jr 4; R A Cutler 1; G B Murray 1; I Elliott 1; G W Beecher 1; H Betts 3.

### DETROIT PRICE CURRENT,

Herd's Grass, bu	200	Salt,	\$1 38
Flax, bu	100	Butter,	14
Lime, bbl	70	Eggs, doz	12
Flour, bbl	\$3 62	Hides, lb	3a6
Corn, bu	40	Wheat, bu	75
Oats,	30	Hams, lb	7
Rye,	40	Onions, bu	70
Barley,	87	Cranberries,	1 00
Hogs, 100 lbs	4 37	Buckwheat, 100 lbs	1 25
Apples, bu	37	Indian Meal,	75
Potatoes,	31	Beef,	350a4 00
Hay, ton	10a12 00	Lard, lb retail	7
Wool, lb	18a4C	Honey,	10
Peas, bu	100	Apples, dried	1 00
Beans,	100	Peaches, do	2 50
Boef, bu	6a7 00	Clover Seed, bu	6 30
Pork,	8a11 00	Pine Lumber, clear	20 thou.
White Fish,	6a5 50	Second clear	15 "
Trout,	3 50a6 50	Bill Lumber	11 "
Cod Fish, lb,	5a5	Flooring,	12 "
Cheese,	6	Common,	10 "
Wood, cord,	1 75a2 25	Lath,	2 "

### Paper Warehouse.

THE undersigned has opened an extensive Paper Warehouse, on Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, for the exclusive sale of all kinds of paper, where a general assortment can be found at all times. The attention of country dealers is respectfully invited, before purchasing elsewhere. Cash paid for rags.

Detroit, Feb. 19, 1851.

marly

They say a man calling his name Baldwin—an elderly man—is getting subscribers for the Mich. Farmer and other papers, and receiving pay, in Hillsdale Co., and farther west. He is no agent of ours.

Do not forget that additions can be made to clubs which have been sent us, more or less, at the club prices.

Subscribers in arrears for the Michigan Farmer, who will send us the advance price (one dollar a year), including the present year, previous to our embarkation for Europe, shall be credited in full.

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